

Mubarak, Rabin to meet

TEL AVIV (AP) — Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak will hold a meeting with Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin before the scheduled resumption of Middle East peace talks, Egypt's ambassador to Israel said Monday. Ambassador Mohammad Bassiouny told Israel Radio that agreement was reached on such a meeting before April 20 but it was undecided whether it would be in Egypt or Israel. Mr. Rabin's spokesman, Gad Ben-Ari, said Egypt has suggested a Rabin-Mubarak meeting following the Egyptian leader's discussions Tuesday in Washington with President Bill Clinton. Mr. Mubarak will meet France's new conservative Prime Minister Edouard Balladur Thursday on his way home from Washington, Mr. Balladur's office said Monday. Mr. Mubarak is due in Paris Wednesday. There was no immediate confirmation that he would meet Socialist President Francois Mitterrand who appointed Mr. Balladur last week after a general election conservative landslide.

Mubarak faces rights questions from Clinton, page 2

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Clinton wants 1993 to be year of peace

TEL AVIV (R) — President Bill Clinton wrote Israel's president-elect, Ezer Weizman, Monday that he was dismayed by the recent violence in the region, but still hoped to make 1993 "a year of hope and peace." Mr. Weizman, a member of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's ruling Labour Party, was elected by parliament last month and will take over the largely ceremonial presidency on May 13. Mr. Clinton wrote Mr. Weizman that "as a war hero who has become an outspoken man of peace your presidency will symbolize Israel's quest for peace and security. I assure you that the United States will work with Israel and its neighbours to make 1993 a year of hope and peace. I am dismayed and concerned by the recent violence... it makes the quest for a peaceful solution all the more urgent."

Cyprus may ask for Greek troops

NICOSIA (AP) — If the reduction of the U.N. peace force creates tensions, Cyprus will ask Greece to send troops to the island, the government said Monday. Cyprus government spokesman Yannis Cassoulides said that President Glafos Clerides mentioned the prospect to Marack Gouling, the U.N. under-secretary-general for political affairs when he visited Cyprus last month. Greece, however, said it did not intend to send more troops to the island. "Greece, as a guarantor power, does not intend to alter the number of its armed forces on Cyprus," government spokesman Vasilis Magginas told a news briefing in Athens. Mr. Magginas and Mr. Cassoulides denied press reports claiming that Mr. Clerides had requested the dispatch of two Greek army divisions.

Nateq Nouri in Greece

ATHENS (AP) — Iran's parliamentary speaker arrived here for a two-day visit Monday, his first foreign trip since taking office last year. Ali Akbar Nateq Nouri, speaker of the Majlis, was accompanied by Iran's ministers of trade, housing and urban development, two under-secretaries and parliamentarians. During his stay, Mr. Nateq Nouri is expected to discuss regional developments, Greek-Iranian trade and bilateral issues. Mr. Nateq Nouri will also visit Poland and Croatia.

Rafsanjani says Iran needs foreign experts

TEHRAN (R) — President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani says Iran needs the services of foreign experts and educated Iranians living abroad and should stop rejecting them because of their ideological impurity. In two speeches over the past week, Mr. Rafsanjani argued in favour of tolerance, reviving a call for pragmatism after months of proclamations by purist members of Iran's Islamic leadership. "If we raise anti-foreigner feelings so that when an expert comes here we boo and say 'why have they brought him here and are giving him money?'... we will run into problems," Jomhuri Eslami newspaper quoted him as saying.

Estonia slams Yeltsin remarks

MOSCOW (R) — Estonia reacted angrily Monday to a warning by President Boris Yeltsin linking the withdrawal of troops to rights for Russians in the Baltics, saying Russia was motivated only by its desire to dominate the Baltic state. Mr. Yeltsin told a news conference on Sunday, after his summit with U.S. President Bill Clinton in Vancouver, that Latvia and Estonia must guarantee rights of Russian minorities if Moscow was to stick to a Soviet-era troop withdrawal plan. "We will be scheduling the actual withdrawal in line with what they decide in the human rights area," Mr. Yeltsin said. The Estonian Foreign Ministry said in a statement that this position violated "international norms of behaviour," it said. "The Estonian government interprets Russia's tactics of delaying the complete and unconditional withdrawal of its forces from the Baltics as an attempt to regain control over the Baltic states."

King: Arab progress hinges on freedom for people

His Majesty, opening labour conference, calls for 'revolution' based on what people, not individuals, think

Arab reconciliation dominant theme as meeting opens with top-level participation

By P.V. Vivekanand and Sausan Ghosh

AMMAN — The progress of the Arab world depends on its people being able to exercise individual and political freedoms and collective Arab action. His Majesty King Hussein said Monday, calling for a "new Arab revolution" based on what people, not individuals, think.

The King, addressing an Arab conference widely seen as a possible forum to advance efforts for Arab reconciliation, called on the Arabs to settle their differences and present a united front, to counter the "new world order, which is universal and aims at controlling the world."

The King, opening the 20th Arab labour conference, also reaffirmed Jordan's commitment to democracy and called on other Arab countries to emulate the Kingdom's example of liberalisation.

The progress of the Arabs would only materialise if they are guaranteed the freedoms to live in dignity, express their opinion, participate in political life and demand justice," the King told the conference, attended by mostly ministerial-level delegations from all 21 members of the Arab League except chaotic Somalia, where a government does not exist.

The King, in an implicit reference to the politically-motivated massive dismissal of Arab workers from the Gulf states in the wake of the war over Kuwait in 1991, also emphasised that "the progress of Arabs requires the preservation of their rights to move and work freely on the soil of their (Arab) Nation and the bonds of fraternity with all their brethren wherever they happen to be."

"The time has come for us to state forthrightly that the Arab individual has suffered enough frustration and oppression," said the King in his 15-minute speech.

Despite the social, political and economic repercussions it suffered as a result of the Gulf crisis, Jordan fulfilled its obligations and commitments on the pan-Arab and national levels, "with honour, honesty and sense of responsibility," he said.

"We were unjustly treated twice: First when our stand in the crisis was misunderstood and the second when we suffered from its devastating effects," the King told the conference, the first of its kind to be held in Amman with full Arab participation after the Gulf war.

"We were able to overcome this crisis with the grace of God...

(and) our people's patience," he said. "We hope that our brethren would be able to overcome their crises, divisions, and usurpation at a time when the balances of power have come to disorder..."

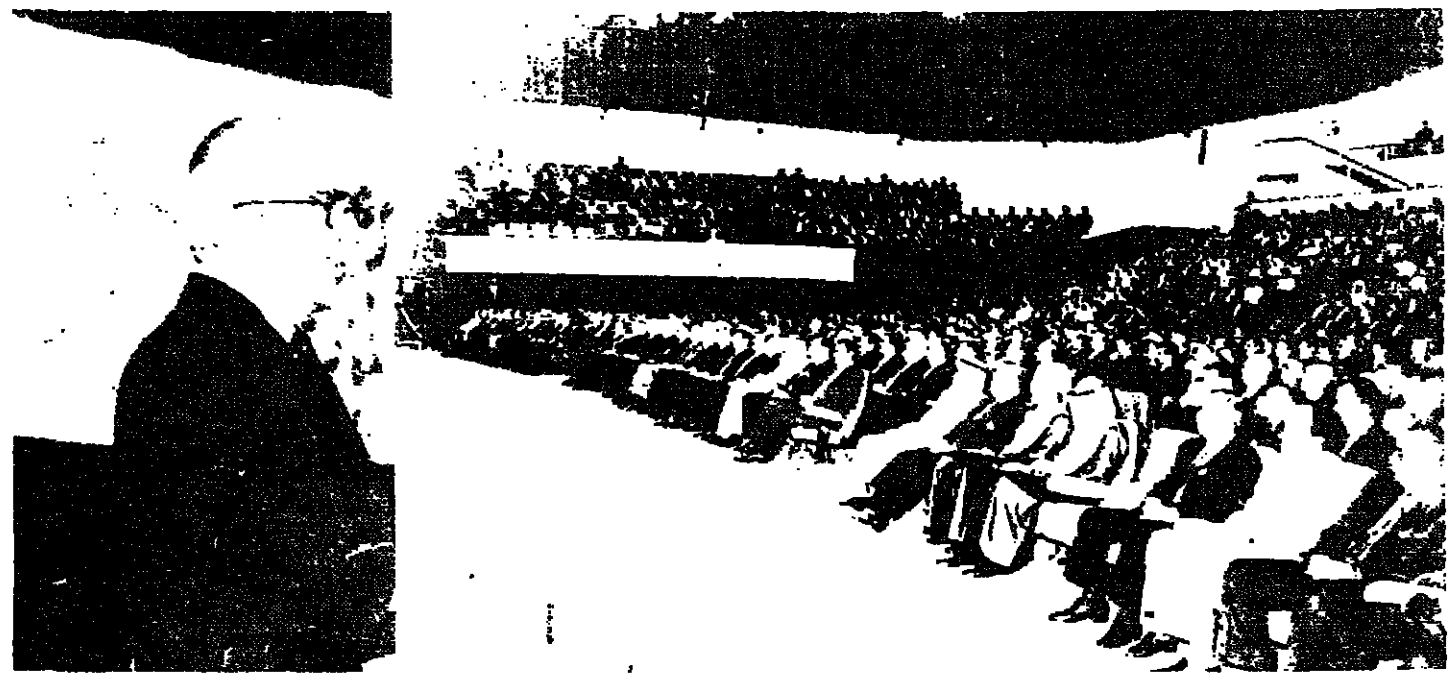
Pointing out the international trend to form political and economic blocs, the King criticised the state of disarray in the Arab ranks and said that "it is also deplorable that hunger, illiteracy and diseases are still rampant in some parts of the Arab World."

"Let us rise to forge collective Arab action and closely review the ongoing phase and the besetting challenges... with a new Arab political thinking," he said.

The King reaffirmed Jordan's commitment to the Palestinian cause and said the Kingdom remained steadfast in its quest to liberate the Israeli-occupied territories, particularly Jerusalem, while "many others wavered."

The theme of Arab reconciliation and collective action was also central in other speeches at the opening of the conference, attended by labour ministers from all Arab Gulf states except Kuwait, which sent its labour under-secretary heading an eight-member delegation.

The reconciliation philosophy was underlined with a Koranic version, recited at the outset of the conference: "You were foes,



His Majesty King Hussein Monday opens the 20th Arab Labour Conference (Photo by Yousef Al 'Allan)

and with (God's) blessings you became brethren."

"We hope to achieve hope, confidence, affection and common welfare from this conference," said Labour Minister Abdul Karim Kabarti, who was elected president of the conference earlier in the day.

Mr. Kabarti emphasised the need for open pan-Arab dialogue and expressed hope that the meeting would be an "important step."

Welcoming the delegations to the week-long conference, Mr. Kabarti made it a point to mention Saudi Arabia and Kuwait by name in what was seen as an emphasis of the full Arab participation in the conference.

Saudi Arabia, still at odds with Jordan over conflicting positions adopted in the Gulf crisis, is represented by its Labour Minister Mohammad Ali Ali Fayed. Arab diplomats said they would not see the under-

secretary-level attendance of Kuwait as a pointed reminder of the strain in relations with Jordan. Rather, they said, the under-secretary is usually assigned by the Kuwaiti government to attend most inter-Arab meetings.

Kuwait has repeatedly rebuffed Arab efforts to reconcile it with other Arab countries which it saw as pro-Iraq.

Mr. Kabarti said: "Let us go back to the pan-Arab dream and

the ambitions of Arab renaissance... and have more trust and hope so that we do not answer a wrong with a wrong."

Arab League Deputy Secretary-General Mahdi Mustafa Hadi said the importance of the Amman conference lies in it being a "conference of Arab social consciousness." He stressed

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King meets Arab ministers, page 3

Palestinians fear Israelis plan to fragment W. Bank

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — The week-old closure of the West Bank and Gaza Strip, but not East Jerusalem, has sharpened Palestinian fears that Israel wants to break the occupied territories into fragmented cantons in a future peace settlement.

The closure, ordered after 13 Israelis were killed in knife and gun attacks by Palestinians during March, has effectively split the occupied territories into four zones: East Jerusalem, the halves of the West Bank north and south of the city, and Gaza on the Mediterranean coast.

A future Palestinian authority already faces the administrative problem that Gaza is divided from the West Bank by more than 30 kilometres of Israeli territory.

Fragmentation of the West Bank would greatly add to the practical difficulties of the Palestinians ever establishing an independent state.

Palestinian negotiator Nazmi Al Ju'beh said that at this stage in

the peace process, "the most problematic point is not sovereignty, but the problem of the integrity of the whole Palestinian territory under occupation."

"We are seeing that the Israelis are trying to make at least four cantons in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, which we can see not through the closure of the territories," he argued.

The core of the issue is East Jerusalem.

Israel considers the area part of its "eternal capital" so the closure leaves access between East Jerusalem and Israel but seals the city from the West Bank. This cuts the West Bank in half because the main north-south roads run through East Jerusalem.

East Jerusalem is also the economic and social hub of the occupied territories. Palestinian academics say 100,000 people normally come to the city every day for jobs, trade, education, medical care and shopping.

East Jerusalem is the centre of Palestinian commerce and the site of the market where fruit and

vegetables from all over the West Bank and Gaza Strip are traded.

There are 58 private schools attracting 25,000 students, many from outside the city, and three big hospitals to which patients are referred by doctors throughout the occupied territories. Many hospital staff also live outside the city boundaries.

Israel has ruled out any discussion of Jerusalem at the present stage of the peace process, which is to work out a five-year interim period of Palestinian self-rule.

The talks began in October 1991 and were suspended in December after Israel expelled 415 Palestinians. A new round was scheduled for April 20 but it is not yet clear whether Arabs will attend.

Negotiations on a final settlement will start in the third year of the period and will cover Jerusalem. But there is no doubt what Israel wants.

"Jerusalem for Israel is not a security issue, it is not even a

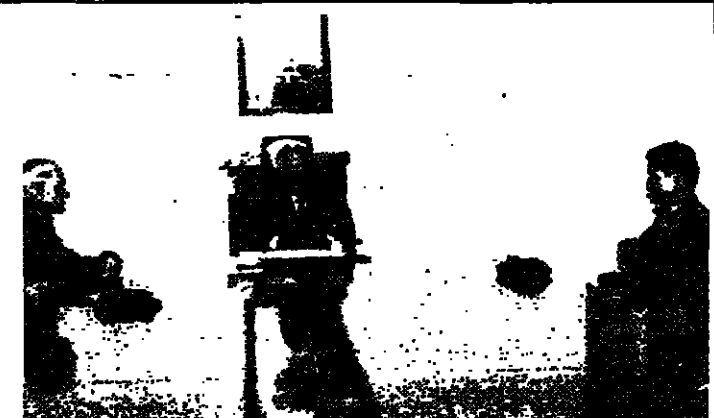
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King honours Shurdum

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Monday conferred on the outgoing Air Force commander, Lieutenant-General Insan Shurdum the Al Kawkab Medal of the First Order and thanked him for his valuable services.

In a message sent to Gen. Shurdum, the King expressed deep appreciation for Gen. Shurdum's efforts to develop the airforce.

"I sent you my affection, appreciation and thanks for your services. Along with the other officer officers you have excelled in offering your good services to the nation," the



His Majesty King Hussein Monday visits the Royal Air Force headquarters (Petra photo)

King said.

Citing Gen. Shurdum's courageous feats, the King said that the outgoing general had fought alongside a close companion, the late fighter pilot Muwaffaq Salti, in the course of defending Jordan, and he

also had shot down enemy planes over Iraqi territory during the 1967 war.

"You have always served as an example of courage and loyalty. I am delighted to see

(Continued on page 5)

Yeltsin back from summit, launches plebiscite campaign

MOSCOW (Agencies) — President Boris Yeltsin returned to Russia Monday from Vancouver summit talks and promptly urged people to endorse his reforms in an April 25 plebiscite.

"Go out and vote 'Yes' to all four questions," he told a crowd in the central Siberian city of Bratsk as he sought support for his pro-democracy, pro-market policies.

He launched his referendum campaign in a brief stopover after winning support and a \$1.6 billion aid pledge from U.S. President Bill Clinton at the weekend.

Itar-Tass news agency said Mr. Yeltsin, who plans to stump Russia mobilising and apathetic population before the referendum, appealed to the people of Bratsk to go out and vote.

"I propose a simple formula for voting — go out and vote 'yes' to all four questions," he said after a visit to an aluminium smelter and to old student friends.

Four questions will be on the ballot paper, altered last week by Russia's conservative supreme legislature as part of a power struggle with the reformist president.

One is a vote of confidence in the president, one is a vote of confidence in the painful reforms begun since the Soviet collapse in late 1991, and two ask whether early presidential and parliamentary elections are needed.

"Don't be afraid to say 'yes' even to the question relating to the reelection of the president," Mr. Yeltsin added.

Mr. Yeltsin has warned that



U.S. President Bill Clinton (right) says good-bye to Russian President Boris Yeltsin after their summit in Vancouver which ended Sunday (AFP photo)

the lawmakers' battle to slow his reforms masks a come-back attempt of communist forces.

He wants the unpopular top legislature, the Congress of People's Deputies, to be forced to go to the people and earn the right to speak for them.

But the congress has diluted the referendum questions, removing earlier reference to new elections in November 1993 and using the vague formula "early elections" instead. This could be any time until 1995 for deputies or 1996 for Mr. Yeltsin.

Mr. Yeltsin's earlier plan for a referendum on a new constitution, which would abolish the congress altogether, had to be shelved when deputies rewrote the questions.

President Clinton is working to rally the world's wealthiest nations to Mr. Yeltsin's side after

the harmonious weekend summit. Secretary of State Warren Christopher said Monday that U.S. support for Russia's democratic reforms will continue even if Mr. Yeltsin loses his upcoming electoral test.

"We're in it for the long pull," Mr. Christopher told NBC television. "We're going to be supporting reformers whatever happens."

Mr. Clinton said the Russian people would find "immediate and tangible results" from the \$1.6 billion in American aid he brought to the summit, and that it would benefit Americans as well. The package includes direct grants and credits for the purchase of food and other goods. Also

(Continued on page 5)

Yeltsin 'only choice,' page 8

Palestinians postpone decision on peace talks

TUNIS (R) — The Palestinian leadership on Monday postponed a decision on whether its negotiators would attend the next round of Middle East peace talks with Israel.

"We decided to not take a decision for the moment and to postpone it, because we are waiting some answers," a senior adviser to Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat told Reuters after two days of talks in Tunis.

A statement said the session would remain open and consultations would continue with Arab parties to the talks, due to resume in Washington on April 20.

Faisal Al Hussein, overall coordinator of the Palestinian negotiating team, met later Monday with the U.S. ambassador to Tunis, Thomas McCarthy, Palestinian sources said.

Mr. Hussein briefed him on the results of the leadership meeting and assured him of the Palestinians' commitment to the peace process.

He also told Mr. McCarthy that 396 Palestinians, whose expulsion by Israel in December stalled the peace talks, must be allowed to return home.

The Central Council of Fateh, the PLO's mainstream movement, also met Monday to discuss the Middle East talks. Palestinian sources said.

Diplomats said they believed the Palestinians were waiting for the outcome of Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak's meetings in Washington with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher Monday and with President Bill Clinton Tuesday.

Mr. Mubarak told the New York Times on Sunday he would try to persuade Mr. Clinton to press Israel on the speedy return of the expelled Palestinians.

In its statement, the PLO leadership said solution of the expulsion issue and resolution of human rights problems would remove obstacles impeding the talks.

"Starting with its attachment to the peace process and the importance of reaching positive results the Palestinian leadership expresses the necessity to resolve the main issues," the statement carried by the Palestinian news agency Wafa said.

Among these issues are "return of the deportees in compliance with Resolution 799, the return of

(Continued on page 5)



## Mubarak to face rights questions from Clinton

By Mimi Mann  
The Associated Press

CAIRO — Although the United States and Egypt share a desire to stifle Muslim extremism, President Hosni Mubarak may face questions in Washington this week about his strong-arm tactics against Islamic militants.

Mr. Mubarak hopes to use his visit with President Bill Clinton and administration officials to rejuvenate the stalled Middle East peace talks. But that goal may be blurred by extremist attacks and police counter-violence at home.

On Friday, Mr. Mubarak told a Kuwaiti newspaper his tactics have "terrorists breathing their last." He has made no secret he is willing to use any means to stop the violence.

But some Egyptians fear his means might not meet with American approval.

"If the U.S. forces Egypt to make some concessions with the Islamic groups, it could be catastrophic," said Osama Al Ghazali Harb, director of the government-funded Al Ahram Centre for Political and Strategic Studies. "If the U.S. puts too much pressure on Mubarak, we could see Egypt go the way of Iran" and become a theocracy.

The question for Mr. Mubarak: How much pressure is too much? Egyptians may find out Tuesday, when Mr. Mubarak goes to the White House for Mr. Clinton's first meeting as president with an Arab head of state.

"Certainly the Clinton administration will pressure Egypt to improve its human rights record, because Egypt is so important to the U.S.," said political analyst Tim Sullivan of the American University in Cairo. "But there's a sense this is a friend, not to put more pressure on a country than it can bear."

Mr. Mubarak and Mr. Clinton both are concerned about domestic violence. Bombers hit the United States and Egypt on Feb. 26 — first at New York's World Trade Centre then in a crowded Cairo cafe only hours later.

Mr. Mubarak blames the two incidents on an international conspiracy to stop the peace talks. And he accuses Iran of fostering the violence, exporting extremism through Sudan into Egypt.

In Egypt, Muslim extremists are attacking police, Christians and foreign tourists in a bid to overthrow Mr. Mubarak's secular government for an Islamic state similar to Iran.

En route to Washington, Mr. Mubarak stressed Egypt's stability and sound investment opportunities in talks with German and British leaders.

But even as he spoke, militants threatened foreign investors, warning them to get out while they can. Attacks against foreign tourists have battered that industry. Egypt's top money-earner. Three foreigners have been killed since October.

Last week, a small bomb went off inside one of the famed Giza



Hosni Mubarak

Pyramids. Later, the government announced a programme to install metal detectors at the pyramids and other main tourist sites.

Mr. Mubarak's harsh counter-measures appear to have substantial support among Egyptians.

Human rights advocates, on the other hand, accuse the government of fostering violence by using violence.

"Human rights abuses occur more frequently every day," said Bahaeddin Hassan of the Egyptian Organisation for Human Rights.

The State Department substantiates those charges in its latest human rights report. Issued in January, it slams Egypt for using excessive force and accuses Egyptian police of widespread use of torture, especially against suspected Muslim militants.

Mr. Mubarak's government vehemently denies that.

## 'Mubarak's U.S. visit just like Rabin's'

The Jerusalem Post

WASHINGTON — Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak visit here, promises to touch on many of the same themes as did Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's just three weeks ago.

"The initial meeting is to do the same kind of thing Rabin did when he came here — create a good relationship," said William Quandt, a senior fellow at the Brookings Institution think tank.

According to an Egyptian Embassy official, Mubarak wishes to ascertain that the shift in control of the White House has not affected Egypt's status in Washington.

"This meeting will be very important... in indicating Bill Clinton's approach," he said. "The Arab countries were in favour of the Republican presidents (Ronald Reagan and George Bush). The Democratic president should put forward his own policy toward the Middle East based on the recommendations of his friends in the area: Israel, Egypt, and Saudi Arabia."

Also vital to Mubarak is confirming Egypt's aid package. Like Rabin, Mubarak is concerned U.S. budget cutting might lead to a reduction of financial assistance to his country. Notwithstanding Christopher's recent public statements supporting the continued aid to the two countries, Senator Patrick Leahy, a key member of the Senate appropriations committee, called last week for some aid to be diverted from Egypt and Israel to Russia.

The Egyptian Embassy official said that although his country has received assurances from the administration that Egypt's \$2 billion annual aid will be maintained through 1994, an additional public announcement is hoped for.

"If it comes from President Clinton," the official said, "the message would be stronger. It would be good for the diplomatic relationship for the president to say something; it would be more significant."

Mubarak also seeks continued public acknowledgement of his country's role in the peace process. However, experts here downplay reports suggesting Mubarak's visit will help determine whether the Arab parties, including the Palestinians, return to the peace talks later this month.

But Mubarak will not be solely on the offensive. He is likely to face questions about Egypt's crackdowns on Islamic fundamentalists. Recent reports, including a front-page story in The New York Times, highlighted Egypt's harsh measures against Islamic religious groups — including those not implicated in terrorist acts.

A Senate source said there is "a great deal of sympathy for what Egypt is facing with extremists, but there's a concern Egypt is going too far."

Ultimately, American interests will temper any criticism, according to Robert Satloff, acting director of the Washington Institute for Near East Policy.

"Because an Islamist takeover in Egypt would have near-catastrophic implications for Western interests," Mubarak should find a friendly ear when he lobbies for indulgence in fighting domestic foes with means that might normally run afoul of the administration's commitment to human rights," wrote Satloff.

And when the handshake ceremonies are completed, the primary item on Mubarak's shopping list here will remain the financial assistance package.

Said Quandt: "I think the Egyptians would like to say when the (Clinton-Mubarak) talks are over that they'll get the reassurance on aid. I think they'll get that reassurance."

## Archaeologists find settlements on UAE islands

DUBAI (R) — Archaeologists have unearthed ancient villages on two Gulf islands which may yield new information on pre-Islamic life and trade.

"These settlements, dating from around 100 A.D. to 500 A.D. have opened a whole new chapter in knowledge of the region's history," Geoffrey King of London University's School of Oriental and African Studies reported Sunday.

Mr. King's project, set up by United Arab Emirates (UAE) President Sheikh Zayed Ben Sultan Al Nahayan, began excavating in March on islands off the Abu Dhabi coast. The finds are on Sir Bani Yas and Yasat.

"These island sites represent a very substantial addition to our understanding of the patterns of trade and human settlement in the western part of the southern Gulf in the pre-Islamic period," Mr. King said in a statement sent to Reuters.

He said the team would attempt to reconstruct a computer model of the Sir Bani Yas village based on their excavations.

Pottery on the site has yet to be precisely dated but indicates the island traded with the Parthian or Sassanian empires in Iran.

"Places of the period have been found in Iran, but this is an extremely rare example of the domestic architecture of the time," Mr. King said. "It is a subject of which we know very little anywhere."

Test trenches have revealed remains of other buildings and evidence of a large population which the team thinks could not have subsisted on local agriculture alone.

"It suggests the possibility of extensive trade connections," said Mr. King. "This could have been an important focal point for trans-Arabian commerce."

The team also plan to excavate

a 5,000 to 6,000-year-old settlement on Dalma Island — an ancient pearling centre 65 kilometres off Abu Dhabi with evidence of trading links with Mesopotamia — and a similar site on Merawah.

They are trying to piece together how the islands' people got their water supply, what they ate and with whom they traded.

"It's all quite staggering. It was virtually a blank on the map of the history of the Gulf," Mr. King said.

River 'discovery' old news

Saudi academics dismiss claims by a geologist in the United States to have located what was once the largest river in the Arabian Peninsula — and say experts have known about it for nearly 400 years.

The official Saudi Press Agency quoted a statement Sunday by

the King Fahd University for Petroleum and Minerals in Dhahran as saying it had found no "new truths" in the claims by Boston University geologist Farouk Al Baz.

Dr. Baz said in March he had located what was once the largest river in the Arabian Peninsula, a 850-kilometre dry channel whose delta forms more than two-thirds of present-day Kuwait.

He said he detected the channel, which runs eastward from western Saudi Arabia's Hijaz Mountains, by studying satellite images. The river may have dried up more than 5,000 years ago.

Dr. Baz said he was submitting a paper on his discovery to the journal Science and proposed the channel be named Kuwait River.

But the university statement accused Dr. Baz of "proposing incorrect and hasty ideas." It said the river had been known as "Wadi Al Baten" by geologists since the year 1000.

## MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

### 3 implicated in Algeria barracks raid killed

ALGIERS (R) — Algerian security forces have killed three Muslim fundamentalists believed to be among 16 hunted after a bloody raid on a military barracks last month, local newspapers said Monday. Eighteen soldiers were killed in the March 22 attack on Bouzoul Barracks, 100 kilometres south of Algiers. Another died from his wounds and a total of 23 attackers were killed during the raid or in a huge manhunt afterwards. The government newspaper Al Moudjahid said Monday four men were trapped in a shack near Bordj Al Kiffan, 10 kilometres east of Algiers, after stealing a car last Wednesday. "After a shootout which ended with the death of three terrorists and the flight of the fourth, security forces recovered a machinegun and a Kalashnikov stolen from Bouzoul Barracks, and an automatic beretta pistol which belonged to a traffic policeman assassinated last March 5..." it said. There was no mention of any casualties among security forces.

### Sudan bans foreigners from selling property

KHARTOUM (AP) — The Sudanese government has issued a decree that bans foreigners from selling their property in Sudan and forces them to return it to the government in case they want to leave the country. Justice Minister Jalal Al Lutfi issued the order on March 21 but it was made public Sunday. The decree forbids foreigners from selling any real estate, land or places of worship they own. In case they wish to leave Sudan, they can either pass on the property to other members of their community, as long as they use it for the same purpose, or return it to the government. "In case of migration or inability to utilize these estates, they return to the state to use them to the best it sees," the decree said. The decision seems to be primarily directed at the Egyptian community, that has witnessed an exodus from Sudan in the past months. Tens of thousands of Egyptian teachers have left Khartoum since the government nationalised 20 Egyptian schools early this year and took control of the Sudan branch of Cairo University last month. The land where their homes are located in the centre of the capital is estimated at millions of Sudanese pounds.

### Kuwaiti emir urges press not to abuse freedom

KUWAIT (R) — The emir of Kuwait has urged the domestic media to take the interests of the country into consideration and not abuse press freedom. Monday newspapers said Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah made his comments at a meeting Sunday with Kuwaiti journalists union. "We do not want our common enemy who is still in power to take advantage of our differences," he was quoted as saying. "Some issues which can be tackled (by the press) under ordinary circumstances must not be tackled under extraordinary circumstances." Kuwaiti newspapers have been attacking alleged government inefficiency and corruption. The emir stressed his support for the freedom of the press and the democratic process through the newly elected parliament. "We believe in this freedom and we believe in democracy," he said. "Anything that harms Kuwait will harm us all."

### Iranian to be flown out of Australia

BRISBANE, Australia (AP) — An Iranian man who went berserk on an aircraft after being refused entrance to New Zealand will be flown out of Australia on the first available flight, Australian police said Monday. Karim Amir, 28, set fire to his travel documents while on board Flight 31 from Auckland to Kuala Lumpur Sunday. The pilot decided to make an unscheduled landing in Brisbane, where the man was unloaded. Passengers and crew on the Boeing 767 became concerned when the man threatened several cabin attendants, demanding the return of his travel papers. After being handed his documentation, he locked himself in a toilet and set the papers alight, causing a smoke alarm to sound. The man had been put on the aircraft by Auckland police after trying to enter New Zealand late last week with a false passport. The New Zealand press association reported. Sergeant Larry Pope of the Australian federal police said the crew of the Boeing 767 reacted to a smoke detector alarm set off by the man and decided, in the interest of safety, to divert the flight. "It was only a small incident, but it had the potential to become something bigger," Mr. Pope said. Mr. Pope said no charges had been laid against Mr. Amir. Federal police later said it was expected Mr. Amir would be flown out of Brisbane back to Auckland Monday afternoon, where he could face charges. The Australian customs department said in a statement that the papers the man burned in the aircraft toilet were official documents relating to his deportation. The aircraft, with 239 passengers on board, was delayed in Brisbane for two hours after its unscheduled detour.

### Armenian minister opens embassy in Syria

DAMASCUS (AP) — Armenia's foreign minister, Vahan Papasian, hoisted his country's red, blue and orange flag over the Armenian embassy here Monday, officially inaugurating the mission. "Syria is one of the places where we very much needed an embassy to open," said Papasian, who arrived in Damascus Sunday for a three-day visit. He added that "this will give us opportunity to begin to work on concrete political economic and cultural cooperation." Shortly before the opening ceremony, Mr. Papasian met with his Syrian counterpart, Farouk Al Sharaa, the Syrian Arab News Agency reported. It said their talks focused on bilateral ties and Armenia's dispute with Azerbaijan over Nagorno-Karabakh, an Armenian enclave inside Azerbaijan. Mr. Papasian and Mr. Sharaa both stressed the need to find a peaceful solution to the dispute. Syria, a country of 12 million people, is home to an Mr. Armenian community of about 175,000. Armenia's president, Levon ter-Petrosian, was born in the city of Aleppo, 320 kilometres north of Damascus. At the embassy opening, Mr. Papasian said, "We must take care in that we have a great Armenian community in Syria."

### Israel hands back antiquities to Egypt

CAIRO (R) — Israel has given back Egypt antiquities it uncovered during its 1967-1982 occupation of the Sinai Peninsula, a senior Egyptian official said Sunday. Last week Israel delivered 40 cases of items after settling a long-running dispute with Egypt over antiquities it excavated from the peninsula, Egyptian Antiquities Organisation (EAO) Chairman Mohammad Ibrahim Bakr said in a statement. "The batch includes 10 limestone tablets from the Byzantine era with Greek inscriptions, unique tablets of a type never discovered before in the world, which were part of a collection by former Israeli Defence Minister Moshe Dayan," Mr. Bakr said. Some 200 pieces of pottery from a ship sunk off the Sinai coast in the Turkish Ottoman era which had been on display at Israel's Hafia museum were also handed back. Israel, whose archaeologists explored 59 Sinai sites during the occupation, also agreed to pay \$1 million dollars to help spread scientific knowledge of Egypt's antiquities, and to hand over all maps and charts of the area it made. The EAO brought the antiquities to Cairo but plans to house them in a museum in the northern Sinai town of Al Arish.

### Leading extremist arrested in Egypt

CAIRO (AP) — Hemdan Thabet Mansour, described as a leading Muslim extremist, was arrested Sunday after a brief shootout with police. Cairo state-owned newspapers reported. Mr. Mansour was wounded in the leg when police stormed his hideout at a Cairo suburb to arrest him. The newspapers said Mr. Mansour started the shootout. The papers said an automatic rifle and an amount of ammunition were found in his possession. In a related development, the American University in Cairo was partially evacuated Sunday after an anonymous caller claimed a bomb was planted in the library. A nearly two-hour search of the university's main library and a smaller one containing a collection of rare books found no bombs and classes resumed normally. The American University in Cairo is a private university, accredited in the United States. It was founded in 1919. The radicals, who want to overthrow Egypt's secular government to replace it with an Iran-like theocracy, have been attacking police and Christians but are now also targeting foreign tourists. The militants have also warned they are adding foreign and Egyptian investors to their list of targets. Three bombs have exploded in central Cairo since January and all have been linked to the extremists. The attacks left a Swede, a Turk and an Egyptian officer dead and wounded 26. More than 150 people have died in the past 16 months.

### Arab papers protest group's objection to Peres meeting

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM — East Jerusalem's Arabic daily newspapers yesterday published an announcement expressing their "condemnation" and "astonishment" that the Arab Journalists Association (AJA) objected to Palestinian journalists meeting with Foreign Minister Shimon Peres last week. The announcement said that in a statement distributed last week, the AJA denounced the meeting last Sunday at the Foreign Ministry in which 10 journalists participated. The condemnation said it saw in the AJA's objections "interference in the professional work" of journalists by AJA chairman Naim Toubasi. It was signed by the "Palestinian newspapers published in Jerusalem" — The Jerusalem Post.

## Fateh assails Syria and Lebanon, declares open war on Abu Nidal

SIDON (R) — The Palestinian mainstream Fateh movement declared open war Monday on a splinter group led by Abu Nidal after more than a year of tit-for-tat assassinations in Lebanon.

Colonel Munir Makdah, commander of Fateh forces in Lebanon, accused Syria and Lebanon of aiding the Fateh Revolutionary Council (FRC) in the latest killing in the Palestinian power struggle.

Gunmen assassinated Fateh's top official in Beirut, Colonel Ihsan Mohammad Salem who was better known as Younis Awad, last week by pumping four bullets into his head as he walked near his home.

"We warn all forces behind the mercenary Abu Nidal group: We will not stand idle while our leaders are liquidated," Col. Makdah told Reuters by telephone from his headquarters in the Palestinian refugee camp of 'Ain Al Hilweh in southern Lebanon.

"Since their arrogance has reached this level, we consider as targets all places and buildings where the leaders and officials of the Revolutionary Council are present."

Col. Makdah said the killing of Salem was part of a plan aimed at permanently settling Palestinian refugees in Lebanon.

Fateh, led by Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat, has been locked in a bloody feud with the FRC in Lebanon since December 1991.

Security sources said Fateh was much bigger and stronger in Lebanon than the FRC but the splinter group has operated underground for years and could be better at hit-and-run attacks.

Salem, 45, was the power struggle's 10th victim this year. Some 28 members of the two factions were killed in bombings

and shootings in 1992 and a truce collapsed after a few weeks.

The FRC, opposed to peace talks with Israel, said Sunday it was withdrawing an initiative for a truce with Fateh and warned it would hit back hard against attacks on its leaders.

It vowed to "uproot the destructive state of treason," in the PLO leadership.

The FRC is led by Sabri Al Banna, whose nom de guerre is Abu Nidal. He has been sentenced to death by Fateh.

Abu Nidal split from Fateh in 1973 to mastermind attacks on Israeli targets in Europe, killing scores of people.

The United States lists Abu Nidal as the world's most wanted guerrilla. His whereabouts are not known and he has not been seen in public for years.

Abu Nidal was thought to have been based in Libya and Syria in the past. He is now believed to have links with Iran.

## Mysterious fainting spells of girls reported in schools north of Cairo

CAIRO (AP) — Hundreds of teenage girls experienced mysterious fainting spells that forced school officials to close 10 schools north of Cairo, officials said Monday.

Starting last Thursday, swooning girls in Beheira province typically have spent a few hours in a coma-like state, then awake feeling well. The rate of fainters has gradually decreased, with 11 new cases reported to the Health Ministry Monday.

Extensive blood and urine tests as well as analysis of air and water in the schools found no evidence of poisoning or known disease. The health minister blames mass hysteria.

"I want to assure everyone," Health Minister Ragheb Dewidar said, "On the basis of the preliminary results, these are psychological cases that affect girls of this age and then dis-

appear without any complications or permanent effect."

Quoted by the government's Al Akhbar newspaper, Mr. Dewidar said similar cases of mass hysteria happened on a much smaller level in Egypt several years ago and in London 10 years ago.

An official of Mr. Dewidar's Health Ministry told the associated Press that 207 cases were reported Thursday in the Nile Delta province; none on Friday, when school was in recess; 79 on Saturday; 54 on Sunday; and 11 on Monday, putting the official tally at 351. But the daily newspaper Al Ahram reported more than 400 pupils fainted, and the daily Al Wafd said they were at least 500.

Despite the negative tests for poisoning, further tests are being done, said the ministry official, who refused under ministry

guidelines to let his name be used.

Newspapers said mainly girls aged 13 or 14 were involved, with only a small number of male teens affected. Some girls told reporters they smelled a bad odour before losing consciousness. Others complained of severe headaches and stomach pains prior to fainting.

Salaheddin Ateya, Beheira's governor, ordered 10 schools closed until next Saturday. Al Gomhuriya newspaper reported. Emergency medical centres were set up in the province, 120 kilometres north of Cairo.

Newspaper speculation has been rife as to the cause of the phenomenon, ranging from poisonous fumes emanating from a nearby electricity-generating plant to a new kind of attack by Muslim extremists.

## JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION	
625541, Anglican Church Tel. 630851, Tel. 626543, Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 775261, Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261, St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751, American International Church Tel. 625526, Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 824328, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 823624, 649332, Church of the Nazarene Tel. 675041, Church of the Redeemer ... Tel. 638536.	
PRAYER TIMES	
06:55 ... Sunrise	Fayr
08:14 ... (Sunrise) Duha	
12:38 ... Noon	Dhuhr
16:12 ... Sunset	Ahr
19:02 ... Night	Maghrib
20:21 ... Midnight	Isha
CHURCHES	
St. Mary of Nazareth Church Sweileh, Tel. 810740, Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785, St. Joseph Church Tel. 634590, Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440, De la Salle Church Tel. 661737, Terrasanta Church Tel. 622366, Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440.	
WEATHER	
Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.	
It will be fair and winds will be southeasterly moderate, freshening at times. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.	
Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 22, Aqaba 28. Humidity readings: Amman 34 per cent, Aqaba 39 per cent.	

### USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY	
AMMAN:	
Dr. Mohamed Al Nahawi	699325
Dr. Khalid Mu'idi	743500
Dr. Mohammad Al Sawra	732055
Dr. Abdul Hadi Tayyeh	630115
Firas pharmacy	661912
Fendous pharmacy	776336
Al Asma pharmacy	637035
Naiourah pharmacy	626702
Al Salam pharmacy	636730
Yacoub pharmacy	644945
Shmeisani pharmacy	637600
Naiourah pharmacy	626702
Najib pharmacy	847632

IRBID:	
Dr. Mohammad Al Shara	(—)
Alqada pharmacy	(—)
ZARQA:	
Dr. Wael Abu Zaid	(—)
Khalifeh pharmacy	985417

### EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre	637111
Civil Defence Department	661111
Civil Defence Immediate	661111
Rescue	630341
Civil Defence Emergency	199
Rescue Police	192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade	801228
Blood Bank	775121
Highway Police	843402
Traffic Police	896390
Public Security Department	830321
Malles J. Amman	66612767
Price Complaints	661176
Water and Sewerage	
Complaints	897467
Amman Municipality	787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance)	121
Overseas Calls	010230
Central Amman Telephone	
Repairs	623101
Abdali Telephone Repairs	661101
Radios	773111
Radios Jordan	774111
Water Authority	680100

Jordan Electricity Authority	815615
Electric Power	
Company	636381
RJ Flight Information	655200
Queen Alia Intl. Airport	065200

HOSPITALS	
AMMAN:	
Hussein Medical Centre	81381332
Khalidi Maternity J. Amn	6428176
Akileh Maternity J. Amn	6424172
Jabal Amman Maternity	642362
Malles J. Amman	66612767
Palestine, Shmeisani	6661714
Shmeisani Hospital	669131
University Hospital	845845
Al-Mushter Hospital	6672719
The Islamic, Abdali	66612767
Al-Ahli, Abdali	6661646
Italian, Al-Mubajra	7710193
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh	77511126
Amry, Marha	89161215
Queen Alia Hospital	686100
Amal Hospital	674153
ZARQA:	
Zarqa Govt. Hospital	(09)983323
Zarqa National Hospital	(09)90560
Ibn Sina Hospital	(09)986732

### FOR THE TRAVELLER

#### QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08)53300-5, where it should always be verified.

06:40	Jakarta, Kuala Lumpur (RJ)
08:30	Dhahran (RJ)
10:15	Damascus (RJ)
10:15	Ansha (RJ)





His Majesty King Hussein Monday receives United Arab Emirates Minister of Labour Seif Al Jarwan who is participating in the Arab Labour Conference in Amman (Petra photo)

## King receives Arab ministers attending labour conference

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein received at the Royal Court Monday in separate meetings several Arab ministers who are participating in the Arab Labour Conference which opened in Amman Monday.

The King received Syrian Minister of Social Affairs Ali Khalil who conveyed the greetings of Syrian President Hafez Al Assad.

The Syrian minister commended Jordan's role in hosting

the conference, saying it is a necessary step on the way to Arab solidarity.

King Hussein asked Mr. Khalil to convey his greetings to Mr. Assad and his wishes of further progress and prosperity to the Syrian people.

The King also received the Emirati Labour Minister Seif Al Jarwan who conveyed to the King the greetings of the president of the United Arab Emirates, Sheikh Zayed Ben Sultan Al

Nahayan. Sheikh Jarwan highlighted the role of the conference in achieving Arab solidarity and praised King Hussein's role in addressing Arab problems.

His Majesty also received Moroccan Minister of Employment and Traditional Industries Mohammad Ghairi who stressed the need to re-organise Arab relations.

The meetings were attended by Labour Minister Abdul Karim Al Kabarti.

## Meeting reviews administrative systems of Arab governments

AMMAN (Petra) — Organisations concerned with strategic developments will review Arab countries' planning strategies and practical applications by their governments to deal with crises and administrative problems, said Ahmad Sager Ashour, director of the Arab Organisation for Administrative Development (AOAD).

At an AOAD meeting opened Monday in Amman, Minister of State for Prime Minister Affairs Ibrahim Izzedine addressed the opening session, asserting the importance of administrative development as a means of dealing with weaknesses in public service and waste of resources and time.

away from the will of the homeland and causing its citizens to live in a state of alienation in their country," Mr. Izzedine said.

"And after our countries crossed some distance in building their national institutions to meet the needs of the independent states, they were overflown with crises of adaptation to the new reality caused by the economic development projects and social changes," he added.

Realising the importance of developing its public organisations' services, the Jordanian government has taken measures designed to simplify formalities and improve services, in addition to controlling public spending, said the minister.

He explained that Jordan was also introducing economic reforms as agreed to with the International Monetary Fund (IMF), and is implementing a programme designed to overhaul the educational system as provided for by the 1987 Educational Confer-

ence.

On the social front, the government is directing its resources and efforts towards alleviating poverty, and containing the problem of unemployment via income-generating projects, Mr. Izzedine said.

Dr. Ashour told the opening session that development of public administrations in the Arab countries was essential at a time when the Arab region is facing fast-paced developments.

Forecasting more pressures on governments in the coming years, Dr. Ashour said these governments have no alternative to reducing their subsidies, grants and soft loans because of growing demands; and will have to rely on non-governmental organisations and the private sector.

Dr. Ashour said the government aims to revise their present system in order to better serve the public.

The AOAD meeting will continue through Wednesday.

## Day 2 of population meeting delves into role of women

AMMAN (Petra) — Participants in the Arab Population Conference which was opened Sunday in Amman discussed Monday two working papers: "Women and Development" and "Family Planning and Health in the Arab World."

The first paper, which was presented by the United Nations Statistics Section, included a review of the role of Arab women in political, economic and social development.

It said that Arab women in general are either non-represented in parliamentary and legislative councils, or represented in a nominal form, and in fact they are deprived of an effective means of determining their destiny and practising their rights in their society.

The paper called for measures to encourage and support the participation of women in political life and in the decision-making process.

The paper praised the economic role of women in Jordan, Egypt, Tunisia, Morocco and Lebanon, stressing that their role is strengthened in communities where the economy does not rely on oil.

That role is minimal in oil-producing countries, the paper said.

The health conditions of women in Arab countries is better than it was 20 years ago, the paper said, adding that their educational level is improving although the mortality rate among Arab women, because of pregnancy, is high.

The second paper on family planning and health was presented by the technical coordinator of projects of the Children's Health Survey in the Arab Gulf Programme Samir Fareed.

It said the natural rise in population is about 2.8 per cent, adding that it is one of the highest rates in the world.

Five Arab countries — Jordan, Algeria, Egypt, Morocco and Tunisia — show that the high population growth rate is a stumbling block to development efforts, the paper said.

The conference is organised jointly by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), the Arab League and the United Nations Population Fund (UN-PFA).

## Specialists discuss role of women in agricultural, rural development

AMMAN (J.T.) — Although Jordanian women have achieved major accomplishments in education, industry, agriculture and other fields, they are at a disadvantage here, since they are not involved in policy-making, said University of Jordan Vice President Suleiman Arabiyat Monday.

At a one-day seminar on the role of women in agricultural and rural development organised at the Faculty of Agriculture of the University of Jordan, Dr. Arabiyat said females constitute more than 40 per cent of the total number of students in the Faculty of Agriculture, and 51 per cent of the total number of the university's students.

Addressing the opening session of the seminar organised in cooperation with the British Council in Amman and Britain's Reading University, Dr. Arabiyat said that in Jordan, women, who have



Officials from the University of Jordan and its Department of Agriculture, as well as the British Council in Amman and a visiting delegation from Reading University in the United Kingdom participate Monday in a one-day symposium on the role of women in agricultural and rural development

increasingly taken part in agricultural and rural development, account for at least 38 per cent of the total Jordanian workforce involved in agriculture.

But he added that many of these women are illiterate. British Council representative in Amman Chris Chislet told the meeting that the council was

ready to cooperate with the University of Jordan and other Jordanian organisations in promoting the role of women in the rural regions through seminars and exchanging expertise between Britain and Jordan.

Several working papers on the role of women in development were reviewed.

# Crown Prince calls for new vision and code of conduct in human rights

By Sa'eda Kilani  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Monday stressed the need for a new vision and code of conduct to counter human rights violations around the world.

"We in the Middle East are desperately in need of new human rights ethics," said Prince Hassan in his opening speech to a three-day roundtable meeting entitled "Strengthening Commitment to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights," held in preparation for the World Conference on Human Rights scheduled for June in Vienna.

Emphasising that human rights must be respected without discrimination, the Crown Prince criticised double standards and pointed to the lack of analysis of the United Nations definition of human rights.

"(We have) to analyse what we mean by human rights... is it social and economic rights?" he questioned, adding that "few states give attention to cultural rights."

Prince Hassan called for an objective and neutral application of human rights pointing out the double standards that govern the monitoring and condemnation of human rights abuses.

Calling for a new code of conduct and for human rights application that respects each country's social and cultural notions, the Crown Prince simultaneously rejected the argument of states "that human rights is a western notion."

In this context, he urged the adoption of a new system "that incorporates the Islamic value system essential to the development of human rights issues."

Prince Hassan said "that is why a multi-faith system is important."

United Nations Assistant

Secretary General for Human Rights Ibrahim Fall also indicated in his keynote address to the roundtable disparities in traditions and cultures that exist between countries that have to be taken into account.

"We have come to understand more clearly the rich diversity of human cultures, traditions, religions and beliefs... we have learned the imperative need of protecting and strengthening these different expressions of the human experience and of supporting their positive development," he said.

Mr. Fall expressed hope that the three-day roundtable, which is attended by 30 to 40 human rights experts from around the world, will "demonstrate clearly the broad religious and philosophical universality support for human rights."

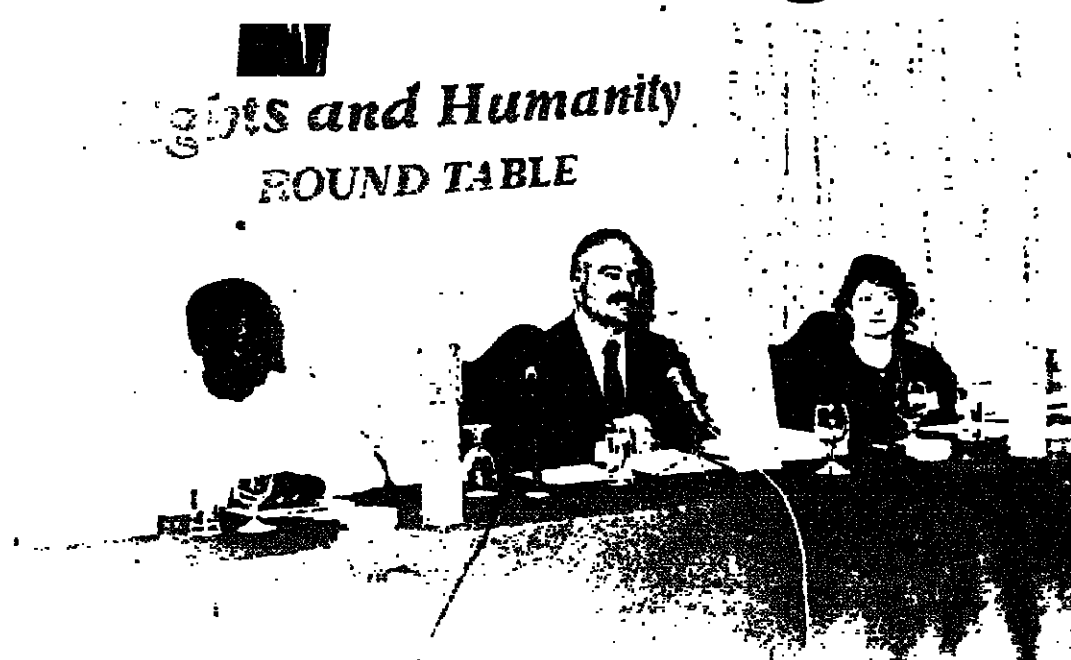
He also stressed the need to incorporate human rights into national legislations.

"Universality of human rights should be promoted... we should discourage reservations (of states that did not ratify human rights treaties), most of which reduce the protection afforded to the people of any country and affect directly the implementation of these human rights," said Mr. Fall.

The U.N. official voiced deep concern over the manner in which human rights are applied and the selectivity and the double standards "that come from peoples and governments who deny that the economic, social and cultural rights contained in universal declaration... are in fact human rights."

"Universality of human rights, he said, means much more than just identical rules; "it means enabling people in the concrete circumstances of their daily lives, throughout the world, to, in fact, enjoy those human rights."

He stressed the need to pay



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Monday delivers opening address at the Rights and Humanity Round Table. U.N. Assistant Secretary General for Human Rights Ibrahim Fall (left) and Chairman of the International Board of Rights and Humanity Julia Hausmann also addressed the opening session (Petra photo)

man of the International Board of Rights and Humanity Julia Hausmann also addressed the opening session (Petra photo)

attention to certain groups so that they may be guaranteed full enjoyment of their rights; such as migrant workers, the extremely poor and excluded, disabled persons, national, ethnic, cultural and religious minorities.

The need for a new vision, a new code of conduct and new method of thinking and implementation was reiterated by lecturers who, representing different cultures and various religions, reflected their countries' experiences in the human rights field, the progress they achieved and the problems they encounter.

"What is the new society we are looking for?" questioned Gabriel Habib, secretary general of Middle East Council of Churches at Limassol and at Beirut.

"A society that is not traditional, secularist... but one that respects

religion and does not eliminate it... a society that respects differences, but at the same time guarantees equality and freedom of expression," he responded.

But, a different outlook to religion must be adopted.

In his description of the Hindu system, Shri Shrivatsa Goswami, leader of Caitanya sect and scholar of Hinduism in India, said "women religion is made untouchable, it becomes a basically genuine mistake."

Religion, according to another lecturer, must be fully explored and apprehended.

By citing many Koranic verses, the Sudanese lecturer, Amna Rahman Hassan from the Inter-African Commission on Traditional Practices, indicated that there exists many humanitarian concepts and laws in Islam that

are not fully explored and implemented. Moreover, she maintained, many malpractices are being carried out in the name of religion.

"In Islam, the girl has to reach 18 years of age before getting married, contrary to traditional practices which give access to parents marrying their daughters at an early age, saying she is in secure hands," Mrs. Hassan said.

She also criticised female genital mutilation, a practice that is still being carried out in Sudan.

"Enough material is available on human rights," she continued, "but actions should be taken and pressure groups should exert more effort to force the governments to implement them."

"Enough material on human rights is available in Islam" Mrs. Hassan added.

## Minister opens Arab food week

AMMAN (Petra) — Deputising for His Majesty King Hussein, Agriculture Minister Fayez Khasawneh Sunday opened Arab Food Week, organised by the Arab Federation of Food Industries, the Jordanian Agricultural Engineers Association (JAEA) and the Ministry of Agriculture.

Dr. Khasawneh delivered an address to the Arab Food Conference in which he urged concern for the Arab humanitarian factor, saying it is the basis of any agricultural development scheme.

The minister also stressed the need to concentrate on implementing Arab agricultural policies to achieve sound development and increase food production in the Arab World, in addition to directing investments to the food processing industries and other fields.

He said Arab imports of food supplies in 1992 reached \$32 billion, adding that experts believe the figure will rise in view of the rapid increase in population in Arab countries.

"Thus, it is clear that providing food for Arab citizens at the

current stage requires a painful drainage of Arab financial resources," the minister said.

"President" of the Jordanian Agricultural Engineers Association Ghalib Abu Urabi and Secretary General of the Arab Federation of Food Industries Fahad Jaber also addressed the conference.

The week will include discussions on processing dairy products, fodder, tomatoes, carbonated beverages, poultry, oils and juices.

On the sidelines of the week, a five-day industrial agricultural exhibition was also opened Sunday by Dr. Khasawneh.

Taking part in the exhibit are 55 Arab, Jordanian and foreign companies, who are displaying agro-industrial products and dairy and food products.

Minister meets with visiting Syrian economic delegation

A visiting Syrian economic delegation met here Monday with Minister of Agriculture Fayez Khasawneh and expressed their

country's desire to increase Jordanian-Syrian cooperation in agricultural and trade fields.

"Speakers for the delegation, which groups members of all economic and business sectors in Syria, asserted the importance of pan-Arab coordination in finding solutions to agricultural problems in the Arab World."

They also stressed the need for inter-Arab cooperation to ensure food security.

Addressing the visitors, Dr. Khasawneh said Jordan was also eager to strengthen cooperation, adding that similarities between the environmental, climatic and geographic conditions of the two countries are conducive to such efforts.

In reviewing Jordan's agricultural policies, the minister pointed out problems faced in farming and stock breeding.

He also outlined the ministry's role in providing assistance to farmers.

Dr. Khasawneh voiced Jordan's desire to see Arab markets opening their doors to free exchanges of Arab agricultural products.

## Arabs should unify civil aviation policies says visiting official

By Sa'eda Kilani  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Arab countries must adopt unified civil aviation policies to confront challenges and high-scale competition posed by the joint efforts of European countries said Assad Koteite head of the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) Council.

"Not only do we have to confront technological and financial challenges in the civil aviation domain, but we also have to face organised foreign competition," warned Dr. Koteite. "All related procedures concerning air navigation are facilitated in European countries... we are in dire need of coordination among Arab countries in this field."

Dr. Koteite who left for Lebanon Monday after concluding a two-day visit to the Kingdom, commended Jordan's achievements in civil aviation and expressed satisfaction that the country's full cooperation with the organisation does not "necessitate any interference" on the part of the ICAO.

"There are major gaps in other countries' systems that need constant follow-up in terms of adherence to security measures as stipulated by the ICAO's regulations; however, the security measures adopted in Jordan goes hand in hand with the organisation's," said Dr. Koteite who visited Jordan once before in 1977.

Dr. Koteite, who has been head of the ICAO's Council for 18 years, insisted that most important for Arab countries, especially non-oil producing countries, was to pay attention to the "human element."

"That's why we pay particular attention to training by granting scholarships and providing in-depth training programmes to Jordan, as well as to other countries who are in need of them," he said, adding that Saudi Arabia is one of the countries that is able to afford and receive considerable amounts of training.

During his two-day visit to Jordan, Dr. Koteite held extensive talks with His Majesty King Hussein and senior Jordanian officials, as well as with the Civil Aviation Authority's (CAA) director who shared Dr. Koteite's view over the need to upgrade the civil aviation status in the region.

Talks also included the need to forward multi-lateral talks between countries in the region to put an end to the wasteful detours that most flights must make.

"We hope that all these restrictions will disappear and planes take direct routes to cut short expenses and time," Dr. Koteite said.

Current contacts are underway for a meeting next June among several countries in the region; the meeting will include Jordan, Syria, Cyprus and Egypt who will review direct routes and restricted air space.

## HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

King, Crown Prince visit PSD chief

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein and His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Monday visited the Public Security Department (PSD) where they met with PSD Director Major-General Abdul Rahman Al Udwan and issued directives on various issues. The newly-appointed PSD director Monday appointed Brigadier Najeeb Al Bataineh as PSD Assistant Director for Operations and Planning Affairs as of April 5. He also appointed Brigadier Awni Mismar as Inspector General.

Sharif Zeid visits army headquarters

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker visited Monday Army General Headquarters where he met with outgoing Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Field Marshal Fathi Abu Taleb and thanked him for his efforts while serving with the Armed Forces. Sharif Zeid also met with the newly-appointed Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Lieutenant-General Abdul Hafez Mirai Kaabneh and congratulated him on his new post. The prime minister also wished Lt.-Gen. Mirai success in his mission, and the Armed Forces further development under the leadership of His Majesty King Hussein.

Minister of Agriculture Fayez Al Khasawneh Sunday opens an industrial agricultural exhibition in Amman (Petra photo)

### WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

#### EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Exhibition of paintings entitled "Meditating Land and Man" by plastic artist Hussein Da'sa at Baladna Art Gallery.
- ★ Exhibition of paintings by artist Mohammad Nasrallah at Al Balqa Gallery, Fuhes City.
- ★ Art exhibition by Nawfal Al Bukhari at the Phoenix Art Gallery.
- ★ Art exhibition entitled "The Legend of Petra II" by artist Suha Shoman at the National Gallery for Fine Arts.
- ★ Exhibition of national heritage and traditional handicrafts at Mutah University.

### The National Music Conservatory / Noor Al Hussein Foundation

presents

#### THE STRING QUARTET

of the

#### NATIONAL MUSIC CONSERVATORY

Aram Zaraslan, violin I - Mohammad Ali Abbas, violin II  
Samir Jawad, viola - Farqad Al-Wattar, cello

In Concert  
Tuesday, 6 April 1993 - 8:00 p.m.  
Nabeel Al-Mashini Theatre - Al-Abdali

The program includes string quartets by Beethoven and Gossec. This concert comes on the eve of the ensemble's participation in the Osaka International Chamber Music Competition, Japan

Tickets, for JD 7, each are available at:

- Nabeel Al-Mashini Theatre, tel. 691900
- Babiche, tel. 661322
- Rihani Stores, tel. 693775
- The National Music Conservatory, tel. 687620



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Jordan Times advertising department.

## Rivalry is enemy of progress

IN HIS address to a preparatory session of the Arab labour conference yesterday, the chairman of the Arab Labour Organisation (ALO), Khaled Faher, told Arab ministers that one of the most important problems that the ALO board faced every year was financial deficit. "Most of the members are not paying their dues in time, and some did not pay for so many years," Mr. Khaled said.

The ALO's dilemma is not unique in joint Arab action. The Arab League, the umbrella for all joint Arab action, is itself in crisis. News reports that Morocco was cancelling the forthcoming Arab League's council meeting, coupled with the failure of the league's secretary general, Esamat Abdul Meguid, to attend the ongoing Amman conference, are symptoms of the disease that plagues the Arabs' body politic.

Rivalry among Arab regimes and leaders has over the years led to the erosion, even paralysis, of Arab cooperation on every level, including that of interaction between the Arab peoples themselves. Almost every Arab leader is on record as having called at one point or another for freeing joint Arab action from political bickering. Yet, it seems that politics and inter-Arab divisions are so strong that any prospect for reconciliation and new ways of cooperation does not actually exist.

The victims of this division and rivalry among Arab leaders is, needless to say, the Arab peoples themselves, future and very existence. Continued alienation and strife can only damage what is left of the chances of any joint Arab effort that would promise a better future for the coming generations and create a meaningful mechanism to counter the growing challenges whether economic, social or political.

Arab citizens, especially workers, moving across Arab borders or working and residing in other Arab countries, and the ordeals and uncertainties they go through, are but an indication of not only how outdated and worn-out the contemporary Arab Order has become but how inhumane it is too. His Majesty King Hussein, in his speech to the conference yesterday, stressed that the "human being is the most important element in the process of development" and that "work is the way to progress." How right he was to point out that these are two qualities that the Arabs seem to ignore at best and to suppress at worst.

Political divisions do exist among and between nations, it is true, but they do not obscure their vision of the future. The future of Arab children and next generations are at stake. It cannot be forgotten or abandoned or left to rivals, no matter how powerful.

## ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

ONLY TWO weeks before the resumption of the Arab-Israeli peace negotiations in Washington, the world continues to face Israel's brutal measures imposed on the Palestinian population represented in the closure of the occupied Arab lands, said Al Rai Arabic daily. These measures will no doubt create new problems before the negotiations and impede any endeavour for peace because they tend to prevent the Palestinians from attending the parley, said the paper. A keen observer of the developments in the region can easily notice Israel's continued drive to find excuses that would prevent its negotiating team from resuming talks with the Arabs, it continued. Israel's expulsion of the Palestinians to southern Lebanon and its current escalation of repressive measures against the Palestinians are but recent examples of the Jewish state's drive to abort a peaceful settlement, the paper added. Israel's evil intentions are being backed by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher who recently voiced his country's total support for Israel's stand and hostility towards the Arabs and Muslims, it said. This harmony between the Israeli and American stands vis-a-vis the Arabs and the peace process almost eliminate all positive elements in the peace process and tends to make it more difficult for the Arabs to attain their national and legitimate rights, the paper stressed. It said that the Arab parties to the peace negotiations ought to learn a lesson from such manoeuvres and take the appropriate attitude during the coming stage.

A COLUMNIST in Al Dustour said that reading is a nourishment for the mind, like food is for the body, and it is rather undesirable for the government, at this stage, to raise the price of paper. Mohammad Kawash said the raising the customs duty on the imported paper by 25 per cent is like raising the price of a loaf of bread, a move which would not be welcome by the public at all. Since reading is like the bread because limited-income people would find it hard to buy printed matter should the paper price rise, he said. The writer said that in the coming stage, political parties are planning to publish their own newspapers and it would be a blow for them if they found that the paper was too expensive to buy. Imposing higher taxes is tantamount to attempting to stunt the growth of the political parties and impeding the literary movement and the publication of books at a time when the Kingdom is going through a democratisation stage, the writer continued. If Amman is to be considered as the capital of the Arab culture, said the writer, it should not try to impede such a move, but rather facilitate writing and publishing and attract intellectuals from all corners of the Arab World.

## The View from Fourth Circle

# A great land, at war with itself

By Rami G. Khouri

EGYPT is troubled, increasingly violent, and, all in all, a rather sad society these days. But it is also a powerful land, more secure in its ancient identity than any other modern Arab country, and therefore capable of absorbing the pains and the frenzy of its current domestic troubles without necessarily collapsing or embracing military autocracy as other Arab countries have done. Egypt is extraordinary in itself, but all the more important to watch today because Egypt is at war with itself.

Almost without fanfare, in the last year Egypt has slipped into a cycle of domestic violence that can only be described as warfare between the government security forces and an Islamist-led and often violent opposition. When the government sends tens of thousands of troops at a time into poor urban neighbourhoods to search for its opponents, when its opponents do deep damage to the tourism industry that is a pillar of the economy, and when hundreds of people die and thousands are arrested within a period of months, then this is war. It is a war for control of Egypt's identity and its future, an old war that started around the turn of the century, accelerated with the Nasser and Sadat eras, and is reaching a new intensity today. This war will determine whether Egypt will be a permanent appendage to the American-led Captain Kangaroo Empire — laughing on cue between commercials, dancing for food, and clapping when the boss says to clap — or whether it will break away from its new dependence on Washington and respond to the needs and aspirations of its own people.

Because Egypt is endowed with such a powerful social and national culture based on thousands of years of settled history, it has the means to offer the Arab World something that other Arab lands have not. It can provide a more attractive model for nationhood than the phantasmagoria of materialism of the Gulf, the militaristic autocracy of Iraq, Algeria, Libya and others like them, or the free-for-all ethnic gangsterism that has occasionally characterised Somalia and Lebanon. It can generate the authentic political culture that our region has sought in vain for several hundred years.

In many ways, though, Egypt has been a microcosm of the modern Arab penchant for neocolonial dependence and bondage. Its Egyptian identity is so old and strong that it can almost do without the meaning or material sustenance of broader pan-Arab national identity. Its size and substance allow it to roam freely among assorted landscapes of national identity. In the last five decades, Egypt has been the only country in the world able to make a credible bid to lead the Arab, Islamic, African, Non-aligned, and Third Worlds. This massive and ancient land that moved to the rhythms of the seasons and the languid tempo of the flow of the Nile enjoys national identity, composure, and resilience that other modern Arab countries do not. Egypt is a great land, and an authentic nation. It could have been an inspiring Arab leader.

All these factors, however, were largely negated by the harsh realities that defined Egypt in recent decades. Severe population pressures and economic problems at home forced it into a relationship of neocolonial tutelage with Washington, and coaxed it into its separate peace with Israel. Its early reaction to the Gulf crisis was the logical consequence of its policies since the death of President Gamal Abdul Nasser in 1970. For several years in the early 1970s, hopelessly mismanaged and unwilling to offer its people genuine democracy, Egypt sought rescue and then refuge in foreign quarters. It danced with both superpowers, and eventually settled in Washington, dazzled by the television lights and the money markets. By the mid-1970s, under the leadership of Anwar Sadat, Egypt was prepared, to serve, U.S. policy interests in the Middle East, in return for sufficient aid to keep the Egyptian people slightly above starvation and sufficient Western public attention to allow the Egyptian leadership to remain slightly above regional political irrelevance. After Sadat was assassinated by Egyptian Islamic zealots, his policies were continued by his successor, Hosni Mubarak.

By the 1980s, Egypt had become worried and desperate: its people had run out of food, its farmers had run out of new land and water sources, its university graduates had run out of job opportunities, its army had run out of steam, its educated and young people had run out of patience, and its political leadership had run out of excuses. It was symptomatic of Egypt's economic distress that in January 1992 the Egyptian society of physicians specialising in kidney diseases proclaimed a ban on kidney transplants from living donors that are not performed between relatives. Poverty was such that many people resorted to selling their organs for money. Among the most common recipients were wealthy Arabs from the Gulf states, who came to Egypt to find what they needed among a people so desperate that they would even sell their internal organs for the cash needed to survive.

Such desperation also manifested itself in the political culture. For two decades after the death of Nasser, the lightly veiled military autocracy never fully allowed the Egyptian people to express their real sentiments. Officially sanctioned opposition parties were allowed to run for office and to publish newspapers, but there was never any question of the opposition gaining power. The most popular and credible Islamic groups were banned from organising political parties, and when they challenged the government in the streets their leaders were routinely locked up and harassed.

**When the government sends tens of thousands of troops at a time into poor urban neighbourhoods to search for its opponents, when its opponents do deep damage to a tourism industry that is a pillar of the economy, and when hundreds of people die and thousands are arrested within a period of months, then this is war.**

The people, in turn, resigned their fate to the Nile, and to the wisdom of Pharaoh and his modern presidential successors. These in turn passed it on to Washington, the International Monetary Fund (IMF), and whoever else in Europe or the Gulf would provide enough annual grants and loans to keep Egypt afloat, and to keep the Egyptian leadership protected from the wrath of its own degraded people. The daily life and fate of the Egyptian people had been long mortgaged to foreign benefactors. Well before Kuwait and the other Gulf sheikdoms did so in 1990, Egypt had become a neo-protectorate, linked to a lifeline of support from Washington, and badly detached from its natural political, cultural, and economic hinterland throughout the Arab World.

Seeking relief and geopolitical purpose within the U.S. orbit, Egypt repeated the mistakes of the Shah, Marcos, and other Third World leaders. It thought that national security, like its national budget, emanated primarily from Washington, rather than from the satisfaction and self-confidence of ordinary Egyptian men and women. Egypt did not realise that in this cold and materialistic world, friendship was only another mercantile currency in the marketplace of nations that depended on the gullibility of the dependent, the naive, and the doomed. It forgot that among nations that made deals, there were no friendships, only temporary partnerships of convenience; no principles, only brutal self-interest. It forgot what had once made it a great land and an authentic nation.

Of all the Arab members of the Gulf war's cash register coalition, Egypt ended up short on substance, but long on political glitter. It was thrown a hollow bone — cancellation of nearly ten billion dollars in foreign debts that it would never have been able to repay in any case. Cairo thought it was close and

important to Washington, but on the real scale of geo-strategic affection it was far below Israel or the Arab Gulf states, who delivered electoral support, oil, money and huge markets.

In return for Washington's financial support, Cairo provided three commodities that had some value in the distorted Middle Eastern market of people and nations that sold themselves for meals and meetings in the White House: it offered diplomatic illusion, strategic convenience, and political cover. Egypt provided the diplomatic illusion that Arab survival and salvation emanated from Washington, though in fact Egypt was becoming increasingly desperate economically and marginalised politically. Egypt gave Israel and the U.S. the strategic convenience of the bilateral Egyptian-Israeli peace accord, which reduced the likelihood of a new Arab-Israeli war. But neutralising Egypt only shifted the centre of gravity of Arab discontent to other capitals, such as Damascus and Baghdad, where angry men sought first to achieve strategic parity with Israel, and then revenge. Having made peace with Israel, Egypt made believe it could influence Israel diplomatically, that it could play a useful role in promoting further peace. But this, too, was an illusion, a phantasmagoria induced by the blinding flash but the hollow substance of the U.S. television lights. Egypt also provided Washington with the political cover that U.S. policies were supported by the largest and most powerful Arab country — yet few people took this claim seriously in view of Egypt's transparent dependence on, and subservience to, the United States.

For a tired and battered Egypt entering its fifth millennium of existence in 1990, sheer economic survival was the primordial national criterion, and foreign money its key measure. Principles, history, identity, and honour were matters for another time. In August 1990, faced with the irresistible vision of a cash-and-jobs lifeline from the Arab oil producers and the U.S., Egypt simply had no choice. It went for the money, bowed before the cash register, and joined the coalition.

Egypt's role was clear to the West since the days when Mohammad Ali sent his Egyptian troops to protect the ruling power in the Arabian Peninsula in the early nineteenth century: it was to help protect Arab strategic resources and communication routes for the West, and in the modern era, to do Washington's political legwork when required. It performed these two functions obediently, and was paid handsomely for its services, at nearly two billion dollars per year from the United States alone.

Egypt could have turned out very differently, had it tried — had it avoided its brutal dependence on the U.S., had it allowed its people true democracy, and had it turned to its own national identity and viability as the antidote to imperial subjugation. As it was, the policy decisions of the early 1990s were determined by the legacy of Egyptian policies since the early 1970s. In August 1990, Egypt had no real choices. When United States Central Command moved, Cairo shuffled along in tandem, bowing politely, vigorously, and frequently. Once the beacon of Arab nationalism in the 1950s, Cairo was the Arab front man for Washington in the 1990s. The neo-colonial enterprise had come very far in 40 years. A great land and an authentic nation had strayed far from its roots. Egypt joined the coalition. A great land, a vibrant society, and a powerful nation were demeaned by their own weakness, crippled by their own incompetence, and humiliated by their own vulnerability.

The consequences of Egypt's modern history are now being played out in the streets of Cairo, Aswan, Assiut and many other towns. This brutal and tragic war should never have happened, and let us hope it does not endure, and that a formidable land can once again return to the inspiration of its own greatness. That inspiration does not come from the budgets of Washington and the Gulf oil states, but rather from the identity, composure and dignity of its own people. Why is such an obvious historical and human reality so difficult for grown men and women to grasp?

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# Time to reappraise the Mideast peace process

By John V. Whitbeck

MORE THAN a year after the optimistic opening ceremonies in Madrid, the Middle East "peace process" remains dead in the water and the Shamir and Bush administrations which shaped its negotiating structures have both been replaced.

This change of administrations provides an opportunity to recognise and rectify the fundamental flaw in the existing negotiating structures which makes genuine progress toward peace virtually impossible.

While a comprehensive Arab-Israeli peace is the formal goal of the current "peace process", the terms of reference for the Israeli-Palestinian bilateral talks effectively bar the Palestinian negotiators from even talking about peace. They may only discuss a restructuring of the administration of the occupation of the West Bank (excluding Jerusalem) and the Gaza Strip for at least the next five years. Unless one believes that Jordan, Lebanon or Syria will agree to a Camp David-style "separate peace" leaving the Palestinians out in the cold, one must now recognise that this straitjacket on the essential Israeli-Palestinian bilateral talks is pre-empting and preventing, rather than promoting, genuine progress towards peace.

In a post-election interview with the newspaper Ma'ariv, former Israeli prime minister Yitzhak Shamir stated that, if reelected, he would have dragged out the Israeli-Palestinian bilateral talks for 10 years while settling a further half a million Israelis in the occupied territories, thereby making clear that it was never his intention that these talks should lead to agreement of any sort. The true intentions of former U.S. Secretary of State James Baker may never be known, although preventing the convening of a U.N.-sponsored "international conference" on Middle East peace, called for by the Security Council just before Operation Desert Storm was unleashed, was almost certainly high on his list.

With an exceptionally weak hand to play in military and political terms, Palestinians have always drawn comfort from their confidence that international law is on their side. As the affair of the expellees in south Lebanon has vividly demonstrated, a strong position under international

law does not alone ensure even the slightest measure of justice. Still, when one has so little else, it is not something to be abandoned lightly.

While Israel has formally annexed East Jerusalem and an arc of surrounding territory (an annexation recognised by no other state), it accepts that the legal status of its presence in the rest of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip is that of "belligerent occupation". Indeed, by not annexing these territories, an act which would necessarily raise questions about the rights (or lack of them) of those who live there, while insisting that it will never withdraw (at all under Likud or fully under Labour), Israel has, in effect, been seeking to create a status new to international law, that of "perpetual belligerent occupation".

## The state of Palestine in international law

It is absolutely clear that an occupying power cannot simultaneously exercise sovereignty over an occupied territory. Legally, sovereignty must reside elsewhere. Jordan renounced its claim to sovereignty over the West Bank in July 1988. While Egypt administered the Gaza Strip for 19 years, it never asserted sovereignty over it. Since November 1988, when Palestinian statehood was formally proclaimed, the only state asserting sovereignty over those portions of mandatory Palestine which Israel conquered in 1967 (aside from expanded East Jerusalem) has been the state of Palestine, a state recognised as such by 122 other states encompassing the vast majority of the world's population.

While extending diplomatic recognition to foreign states lies within the discretion of each sovereign state, there are, as a matter of international law, four customary criteria for sovereign statehood: (1) a defined territory over which sovereignty is not seriously contested by any other state; (2) a permanent population; (3) the ability and willingness of the state's government to discharge international and conventional obligations; (4) effective control over the state's territory and population. Judged by these customary criteria, the state of Palestine is on as firm a legal footing as many states whose sovereign status is not a subject of public debate.

While Israel has never defined its ultimate borders, an act which would necessarily place limits on them, the state of Palestine has effectively done so. They encompass only that portion of historic Palestine occupied by Israel during the 1967 war.

The permanence of Palestine's population is not in question. The state's ability and willingness to discharge international and conventional obligations is demonstrated by its establishment of diplomatic relations with a majority of the world's other sovereign states and its efforts to obtain membership in international organisations such as the World Health Organisation and UNESCO, even if those efforts have been blocked by the U.S.

It is also absolutely clear that a territory cannot be "autonomous" or "self-governing" under its own sovereignty. Therefore, if the Palestinians were to accept a regime of "autonomy" or "self-government", the

will continue to "fake it" until they, like the Jordanians, Lebanese and Syrians, are permitted to discuss with the Israelis what they want to discuss — peace, real peace, and how it could be structured to serve the needs and interests of both peoples.

## A compelling vision

It is conventional wisdom that the specifics of Israeli-Palestinian peace can be discussed only after an atmosphere of mutual trust and confidence has been achieved. However, it should be evident, as a matter of pure logic and simple psychology, that, as long as neither Israelis nor Palestinians believe that any solution acceptable to both peoples can ever be found, the necessary atmosphere of mutual trust and confidence can never be achieved. As Haidar Abdul Shafi, head of the Palestinian delegation, said in Madrid, "It is the solution which opens the door to peace and not the other way around". The time to think and talk about solutions is now.

If the Clinton administration is not content with simply sustaining the illusion of a "peace process" and the appearance of doing something, if it believes (as previous American administrations may not have) that peace actually is achievable and if it is willing to stop "faking it" and do what is necessary to achieve peace, it should also seriously consider whether it would not be easier to reach an agreement by removing the Israeli straitjacket and encouraging Israelis and Palestinians to talk now about how a definitive, durable and mutually advantageous peace could be structured than by leaving them to haggle interminably over "interim measures" — that is, starting together down a road to God only knows where, because, under the current terms of reference, the parties are not even allowed to talk about where the road leads and each fears the worst.

Sharing the Holy Land is not a zero-sum game in which any development advantageous to one side must be disadvantageous to the other. One can envisage a society in which, by separating political and voting rights from economic, social and residential rights in a negotiated settlement, both the legitimate national aspirations of Palestinians and the security interest of Israelis could be simultaneously satisfied.

While implementation of a framework for peace would be relatively simple, its acceptance would require a moral, spiritual and psychological transformation from both Israelis and Palestinians. Yet, given the decades of hatred, bitterness and distrust, any settlement would require such a transformation.

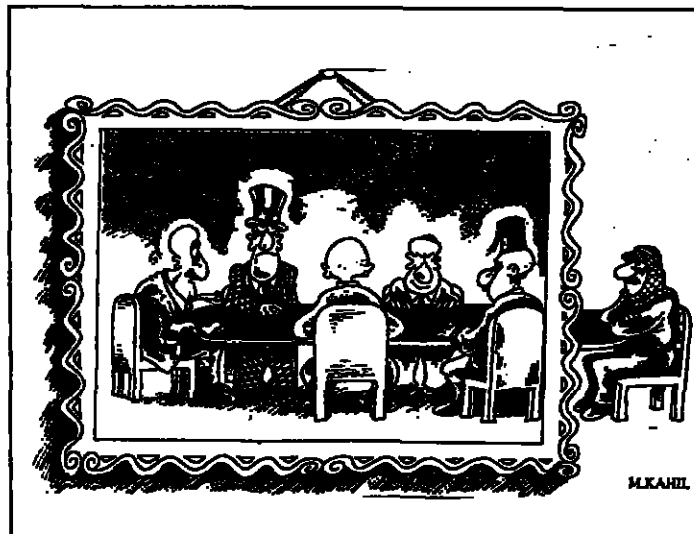
Precisely because such a transformation would be so difficult, it is far more likely to be achieved if both peoples can be inspired by a truly compelling vision of a new society of peaceful coexistence, mutual respect and human dignity, in which both peoples are winners, than if they are left to contemplate painful programmes for a new partition and an angry separation in which both peoples must regard themselves, to a considerable degree, as admitting defeat.

Israelis, Palestinians and the true friends of both must now raise their sights beyond mere "interim measures" and pursue a compelling vision of a society so much better than the status quo that both Israelis and Palestinians are inspired to accept in their hearts and minds that peace is both desirable and attainable, that the land can be shared, that a winner-take-all approach produces only losers, that both Israelis and Palestinians must be winners or both will continue to be losers, and that there is a common destination at which both peoples would be satisfied to arrive and to live together.

Given the huge imbalance between Israel and Palestine in terms of military strength and power politics, the immediate practical challenge for all who are seriously interested in peace must be to find a structure for the Palestinian state, and its relationship with Israel which, while meeting at least the minimum material and psychological requirements of the Palestinians, still permits a majority of Israelis to perceive such a state, as structured, as enhancing their security and the quality of their lives, so that they can recognise that it is in their own self-interest to accept Palestine's right to exist in peaceful coexistence with Israel.

Peace is unimaginable on any other basis.

John Whitbeck is an international lawyer living in Paris. The above article is reprinted from Middle East International.



The weak link in the Palestinian claim to already exist as a state is, of course, the fourth criterion, "effective control". The state's entire territory is under the military occupation of another sovereign state. (For seven months, Palestine and Kuwait had that much in common.) Yet "effective control" is not purely a question of guns and the capacity to compel submission by physical force. It also encompasses the allegiance of the population, what is sometimes termed "the general acquiescence of the people".

Few states can claim the degree and intensity of allegiance which the people of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip manifest, day after bloody day, to the state of Palestine. When Israel and Palestine issue conflicting instructions to the population, it is abundantly clear which state exercises "effective control" over their allegiance.

One may also assume that they



## Family's long struggle for justice in Kuwait

By John Enders  
The Associated Press

SANTA CRUZ — Three days after Kuwait was liberated, a man believed to be a resistance fighter came to Naimat Farhat's home. What the war hadn't done, he would.

At gunpoint, Ms. Farhat's brother was forced to hug their father and, in turn, she was ordered to tie up her brother. The man then beat, raped and shot her. As he left, he shot to death both men.

"I heard the sound of the bullet and the scream of my dad, and the sound of the bullet and the scream of my brother," she said. "I found myself in a bloody pool," she said. "I tried to stand up and could not."

Ms. Farhat, 33, wants others to know what happened on March 2, 1991, three days after President George Bush declared Kuwait liberated and suspended offensive operations against Iraq.

Human rights groups have criticised Kuwait for allowing armed forces, many apparently connected to the Kuwaiti resistance and security groups, to carry out hundreds of reprisals after the Gulf war.

"On Monday, the New York-based Lawyers Committee for Human Rights was scheduled to issue a 56-page report on a fact-finding trip to Kuwait. In a draft obtained by the Associated Press, the Farhat case is cited as an example of atrocities committed by Kuwaiti security forces under martial law.

The Farhats, most of whom are Lebanese, insist they never collaborated with the Iraqis. Their father, an official of the Kuwaiti Interior Ministry's criminal division, was tortured by the Iraqis and another brother helped the resistance by blowing up Iraqi military vehicles, they said.

For Ms. Farhat and her brother Naim, a U.S. citizen, it is a slow, frustrating battle to bring the killer of Ismael and Ossama Farhat to justice.

"The Kuwaitis, they were victims. But after the liberation, they became criminals," said Ms. Farhat.

"Following the handing over of the standard to your colleague who enjoys trust and in whom I take pride, you will be working directly and closely with me so that I can delegate you to carry out tasks at the

other — a young American president and a democratically elected leader of Russia dwelling largely on economic issues. "A new democratic partnership," Mr. Clinton called it.

The U.S. cash offer and promise of more aid to bolster democratic reform in Russia failed to cheer up disgruntled Muscovites. Cynical Russians have heard too often that the country will receive massive Western aid to believe now that the cheque is real until it has been cashed.

The cash is equal to about \$10 for every Russian, financing new grain sales, grants for humanitarian, democratic and arms control projects, and credits for trade and investment.

Citizens, grappling with the hardship of daily life in economic turmoil, say ordinary people, removed from the private business sector, usually do not benefit.

"It would be good if one-tenth of what we are promised is actually given to Russia," said 40-year-old economist Galina Mironova interviewed on a central Moscow street.

Leading Russian nations promised Russia \$24 billion in aid for reform last year. Very little of it trickled through.

"It's the same as it was in the past when billions were promised to (ex-Soviet leader Mikhail) Gorbachev, but nothing happened," Mr. Mironova added.

Few Russians relish the idea of their leaders, who once controlled a superpower, going as supplicants to the West, asking rich foreign nations to keep promises.

## Sudanese rebels unite, call for ceasefire

NAIROBI (R) — Three southern Sudanese rebel factions said Monday they had reunited to form a new front and immediately declared a unilateral ceasefire in one of Africa's longest-running civil wars.

Leaders of the breakaway Nasir, Nyoun and Kwanyin factions of the southern-based Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) said they were ready to hold peace talks with the Islamic fundamentalist government in Khartoum.

But the unity move, announced after a week of talks by the three factions, was condemned as "a hoax" in a statement by the mainstream SPLA, led by its founding father John Garang, which has branded them as collaborators with Khartoum.

"Our meeting agreed on the structure and composition of the interim leadership of the united SPLA," said a statement read at a Nairobi news conference by a

spokesman of the three groups. "We are glad to announce to all the southerners... that our unity is now a reality."

The SPLA was formed in 1983 to fight what the Christian and animist south says is domination by the Muslim, Arabised north.

The united SPLA would be headed by Colonel Garang's former top aide Riak Machar, who led the first SPLA split in August 1991 to form what became known as the Nasir Faction, the statement said.

Political analysts in Nairobi said the unity move had further weakened Col. Garang but added it was not the end of the road for the U.S.-educated Dinka tribesman, whose group remained by far the most well-armed and supported internationally.

The new group said it had joined a ceasefire announced last week by Col. Garang and the Sudanese government and would attend peace talks in Abuja, Nigeria, when they resume in June.

"A unilateral ceasefire takes effect immediately. The forces of the united SPLA shall refrain from taking part in offensive military operations except in the exercise of the legitimate right of self-defence," the statement said.

Other signatories to the unity pact included William Nyoun, who rebelled in September 1992. "This is the real SPLA. It has the people's voice," Mr. Nyoun told reporters.

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## King calls for new Arab thinking

(Continued from page 1)

the need to increase production, explaining that this will result in economic prosperity and political stability.

The goal of this conference, according to Mr. Hadi, should be to "reduce any impediments to Arab cooperation" and to focus on capital and labour exchange.

This conference should "turn over a new leaf" and "restructure the Arab house," said Arab Labour Organisation (ALO) Secretary-General Baker Rasoul.

He said he hoped the conference would "consolidate the goals and common destiny of Arabs."

Mr. Rasoul, an Iraqi, said: "The fact that the conference is held in Jordan, for the second time, is of great significance, especially since it is near the Holy Land. He saluted the 'children of wrath' — the children of Palestine — for their resistance against the Israeli occupiers.

Also addressing the gathering was Michel Hansen, director-general of the International Labour Organisation (ILO), a U.N. agency.

Mr. Hansen discussed the projects of the ILO in the Arab World, emphasising the importance of a cooperation between his organisation and the ALO. He spoke of the need to "identify priorities" and "improve the labour situations in the occupied territories."

"We at the ILO are mostly happy with the working paper regarding 'working Arab women,'" which was later discussed at the conference, he said. The ILO, he said, attaches major significance to the role of women in society and in economic development.

After the opening session, held at the Palace of Culture, the conference got down to discussing their first working paper, on "Arab Working Women and De-

velopment," submitted by Mr. Rasoul.

The paper discussed the status of women throughout history at the international, regional, and national levels. He reviewed international charters calling for ending all forms of discrimination against women and underlined the importance of their contributions to society.

Mr. Rasoul spoke of boosting the contribution of women to economic development taking into consideration the difficulties facing them as homekeepers.

Following are major excerpts from the King's address at the opening session:

"The Arab strategy of employment, manpower integration, training and employing the handicapped, trade union liberties in the Arab World and the environment of work, occupational safety and health as well as other topics which you have adopted as the main basis for your conference are still basic issues in one part or another of the Arab World. We in Jordan have always been keen on the process of coordination, planning and organisation not only at the national level but also at the Arab and international levels.

"This was mainly due to our conviction that progress could only be achieved through joint Arab action and the world community at large, and that any genuine renaissance would not materialise without openness and interaction with the international community, which has become a reality in the Arab world and more concerted than ever."

"The constant movement of labour was a struggle towards a better life. Therefore we have been convinced in Jordan that work is our means towards development and prosperity and overcoming difficulties. By focusing on preparing, training and qualifying the individual for work and life — since the individual is the most important element in the development process — we were able to achieve a kind of balance and self-sufficiency in some of the basic needs, which guarantee for our country the ability to develop both economically and socially."

"This ability would qualify Jordan to be, with its brothers, a starting point for a comprehensive Arab renaissance. It aims to achieve the Arab Nation's historical goals of freedom, independence and unity for which our fathers and grandfathers fought after declaring the Great Arab Revolt."

"The Jordanian Constitution, drawn up 40 years ago, sets forth the values and meanings of labour and protects the rights of workers on just and clear bases. Article 23 of the Constitution protects the right of all citizens to work and stipulates that the country should provide employment for all Jordanians through directing and developing the economy. The Constitution also states the importance of protecting labour and establishes legislation which guarantees the worker's right to receive a wage that suits the labour, specifying weekly working hours, guaranteeing the payment of wages, the enjoyment of holidays, and providing for suitable compensation in cases of those who lose jobs, become ill or suffer disability and work injuries."

"The so-called Gulf crisis, which we sought to prevent, left various adverse effects on our region. It left deep wounds, cracks and feuds among brethren. We in Jordan have suffered most after Kuwait and Iraq from the consequences of the Gulf crisis, which affected all aspects of life, socially, politically and economically. We had to receive human waves of immigrants and returnees and provide them with means of dignified life and suitable job opportunities. This in turn doubled the extent of the difficulties we were facing, particularly the problem of unemployment in its various forms and kinds."

"The time has come for all of us to embark on a new era with a new Arab revolt, where people and not individuals will have the right to express their opinions and where the nation would have its own democratic system based on freedom, tolerance and justice."

"In Jordan, we started our march with this clearcut perspective and probably when you return to your home countries you will carry with you your impressions of Jordan's democratic experiment."

"On this sacred land we stand for right, and advocate freedom against all chains which may infringe its dignity. We remain committed to (liberating) Muslim Jerusalem even if

to be, with its brothers, a starting point for a comprehensive Arab renaissance. It aims to achieve the Arab Nation's historical goals of freedom, independence and unity for which our fathers and grandfathers fought after declaring the Great Arab Revolt."

## Syria ready for 'full peace' — Mubarak

(Continued from page 1)

Gen. Saguy said experience showed Syria stood by its agreements, citing the calm on the Israeli-Syrian border since a disarmament agreement after their 1973 war.

Foreign Minister Shimon Peres has said Israel will have to decide the fate to the Heights by mid-year.

Unlike the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip — home to about two million Palestinians and where 100,000 Jewish settlers live — the Golan Heights are thinly populated with only about 15,000 Jewish settlers and 18,000 Druze Arabs.

Golan settlers have mounted a campaign against any withdrawal. A poll published Monday in the newspaper Maariv showed 63 per cent of Israelis would not accept a total return of the Golan.

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## Palestinians fear fragmentation

(Continued from page 1)

political issue, it is the heart and soul of Israel and the Jewish people," a senior Israeli official said.

"The fact that Jerusalem should be united under Israeli sovereignty is one of the few principles on which there is a total consensus in Israel."

From Israel's point of view, part of the aim of closing the occupied territories is to begin a permanent separation of Israelis and Palestinians.

"Even after the closure... the previous status quo will not be restored," Energy Minister Amnon Rubinstein said after the cabinet discussed steps to reduce

the number of Palestinians working in Israel, normally about 100,000.

"There will be other measures in order to start a gradual separation between Israel and the (occupied) territories in the labour market," Mr. Rubinstein promised.

A ministerial committee will plan ways of encouraging more Israelis to do jobs done by Palestinians on construction sites and farms, a cabinet statement said after Sunday's weekly session.

"The goal is to bring about such that workers from the (occupied) territories won't come here," Health Minister Haim Ramon said.

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## Palestinians defer decision on talks

(Continued from page 1)

previous deportees, an Israeli government commitment to not resort to deportations in the future, and other issues related to the Palestinian human rights," it added.

The PLO backs implementation of U.N. Resolution 799, which demands that Israel take back the expelled.

"The Palestinian leadership reaffirms that reaching concrete and effective solutions to these

issues, with guaranteed commitment and implementation, (will) remove obstacles and assure the restart of the peace process on the right track," the statement added.

The PLO leadership said it also discussed the latest Israeli crackdown on the Palestinians of the occupied territories, and urged "international intervention to protect the Palestinians who resist with courage," the Israeli occupiers.

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## Azeris say Karabakh Armenians pushing further over border

BAKU (R) — Armenian forces are closing in on the key southern town of Fizuli in Azerbaijan, where their advances have already swallowed up one tenth of the republic, the Azeri Defence Ministry said Monday.

Karabakh Armenians seized about 4,000 square kilometres of Azeri territory sandwiched between the disputed territory of Nagorno-Karabakh and Armenia over the weekend.

A Defence Ministry spokesman said Armenian forces were now only two kilometres from Fizuli, which was under heavy artillery fire. Fizuli's civilian population had fled, he added.

"If they seize Fizuli, they will have effective control over two key districts — Zangelan and Kubatly — which will complete the joining of Karabakh with Armenia," one official said.

The mostly Armenian people of Nagorno-Karabakh, a mountain region wholly enclosed by Azeri territory, have fought a bloody five-year battle for independence from Baku. Several thousand people have died.

Capturing Fizuli would cement the Karabakh Armenian gains by bringing all of south-western Azerbaijan under Armenian control. Fizuli lies in a narrow strip of Azeri territory separating Karabakh from Iran. It is 30 kilometres north of the border.

Armenia says it is sympathetic to the Karabakh Armenians' struggle but is not involved itself. Armenia does not officially recognise Karabakh's declaration of independence. But the thousands of Armenians who fight part-time in Karabakh beside their ethnic kin call their country "arsakh," or greater Armenia, which includes Karabakh.

SA, AN, OS, MI, AG, CO, HO, CU, PH, SU, 300, bac, Loi, exp, spe, hos, noi, Ke, ZL, for, chu, Ch, fro, out, cor, A, PE, to, in, Ar, vic, wit, JO, R, V, Ch, att, vic, de, 1, sta, th, at, tv, na, Sn

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He could face up to four years in jail if the inquiry leads to charges and a conviction. Sicilian magistrates have already warned Mr. Andreotti

that he is being investigated on suspicion of links with mafia crime bosses after being implicated by mob turncoats.

He resigned three weeks after the election, but stayed on as caretaker prime minister until last June.

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In the past year, Armenians have broken out of the region and punched communications lines to the Armenian mainland, taking advantage of growing political turmoil inside Azerbaijan.

Last May, they established the 12-kilometre Lachin corridor through western Azeri territory. Armenia, which has a mutual defence pact with Russia, repeated assurances it had no claims on Karabakh and no quarrel with Azerbaijan. It stressed that its own forces were not crossing internationally accepted borders with Azerbaijan.

Azerbaijan admitted Saturday that Karabakh Armenian forces had seized Kelbadzhar town and district, just north of Lachin.

Overall, a Defence Ministry statement said then, nearly one tenth of Azerbaijan was in enemy hands and 15,000 civilians were trapped behind Armenian lines.

Azerbaijan's President Abulfaz Elchibey appeared on Azeri television Sunday night to castigate troops stationed at Kelbadzhar for disobeying orders and deserting their posts.

Officials of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in Gyandzha, some 70 kilometres north of Kelbadzhar, put the figure of those caught behind Armenian lines at 60,000 people.

They said refugees were struggling to reach Gyandzha through snowy mountain passes after Armenian forces cut off road links. Many were suffering from frostbite and some had died on the way.

An Azeri television journalist in Baku said the government was assembling fresh combat units to repel the offensive.

Azeri radio said Mr. Elchibey, who declared a two-month state of emergency throughout the country Friday, had appointed 21 military commanders of cities and districts.

But Baku was quiet Monday morning. Shops worked normally and the streets were free of armed patrols. One Foreign Ministry official, who asked not to be named, said: "The only aim of the state of emergency was to ban opposition political activity."

Azerbaijan has traditional close ties to NATO member Turkey, Turkey said Saturday it had halted the passage of European aid to energy-starved Armenia because of its recent attacks.

The Turkish daily Milliyet newspaper Sunday said Turkish Air Force jets had flown reconnaissance sorties on the border with Armenia. The armed forces did not confirm the report.

Meanwhile, Iranian security forces detained four soldiers from neighbouring Azerbaijan after they crossed the border in a military vehicle, Iran's news agency said Sunday.

The Iranian forces at the border outpost in the Razi region arrested the officer and three non-commissioned officers and confiscated a semi-automatic rifle and a pistol, it said.

The Azeris said they had crossed into Iran accidentally.

In Tashkent, Uzbekistan, Turkish President Turgut Ozal Monday condemned the latest Azeri military advances in Azerbaijan as unacceptable.

Mr. Ozal told journalists during a visit to the Central Asian state of Uzbekistan that Turkey, whose people are ethnically linked to the Azeris, was "doing everything possible" to put pressure on Armenia.

"This is not acceptable — the occupation of Azerbaijan by Armenia," Mr. Ozal told a news conference.

"We are doing everything possible in this matter," he added.

Turkish Foreign Minister Hikmet Cetin, asked after the news conference if Turkey — a member of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) — would consider military action against Armenia, said: "I do not know yet. That is for the world to decide."

Mr. Cetin has been closely involved in negotiations aimed at ending conflict over Nagorno-Karabakh. Talks in Rome and other European cities have made little progress.

Mr. Cetin, on a visit to the Azeri capital Baku a month ago, urged his ethnic cousins to act with common sense and support the peace talks. On Monday, looking tired and strained, he took a more emotional line.

"How can the United Nations stand by when two of its member countries are attacking each other?" he said.

Turkey said Saturday it had halted the passage of European aid to energy-starved Armenia because of its recent attacks.

Asked how this would affect Armenia, Mr. Cetin answered: "They say they have no electricity and no food. But they have tanks."

ITAR-TASS News Agency quoted Mr. Ozal as saying aboard a plane to Tashkent that force should be used to end the conflict.

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Asked how this would affect Armenia, Mr. Cetin answered: "They say they have no electricity and no food. But they have tanks."

ITAR-TASS News Agency quoted Mr. Ozal as saying aboard a plane to Tashkent that force should be used to end the conflict.

"One should not be afraid of military intervention... we should bare our teeth," he quoted him as saying.

"This is not acceptable — the occupation of Azerbaijan by Armenia," Mr. Ozal told a news conference.

"We are doing everything possible in this matter," he added.

Turkish Foreign Minister Hikmet Cetin, asked after the news conference if Turkey — a member of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) — would consider military action against Armenia, said: "I do not know yet. That is for the world to decide."

Mr. Cetin has been closely involved in negotiations aimed at ending conflict over Nagorno-Karabakh. Talks in Rome and other European cities have made little progress.

Mr. Cetin, on a visit to the Azeri capital Baku a month ago, urged his ethnic cousins to act with common sense and support the peace talks. On Monday, looking tired and strained, he took a more emotional line.

"How can the United Nations stand by when two of its member countries are attacking each other?" he said.

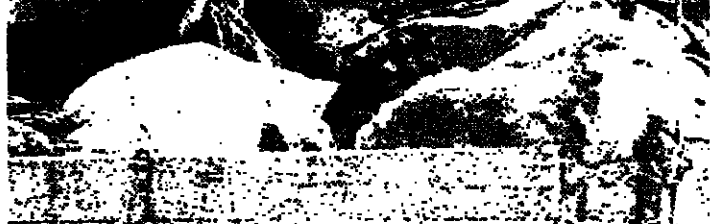
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Two elderly Azeri women sit on the back of a lorry with their belongings as they try to escape the fighting in the Kelbadzhar region of Azerbaijan (AFP photo)

## U.S. may lift weapons embargo on Bosnia Muslims

WASHINGTON (R) — The United States will consider lifting an arms embargo "quite soon" for Bosnian Muslims unless rebel Serbs accept a current peace plan, Secretary of State Warren Christopher said Monday.

"We'd certainly think about doing it (lifting the arms embargo) quite soon if the Bosnian Serbs had not agreed," Mr. Christopher said in an interview on NBC's Today programme.

"I don't want to put a particular deadline on it, but it would not be a matter of months by any means. We would go to our allies and see if we could find a consensus for lifting the arms embargo," he said.

The interview was taped Sunday in Vancouver after the summit between President Bill Clinton and Russian President Boris Yeltsin.

Rival Muslim, Serb and Croat military commanders meet under U.N. auspices in Sarajevo Tuesday to try to consolidate a fragile eight-day ceasefire in the Bosnian civil war.

Bosnia's Muslim-led government has signed all three parts of an internationally-sponsored peace plan, as have Bosnian Croat leaders.

Rebel Serbs have signed the plan's general declaration of principles and a proposal for military disengagement, but have rejected a map dividing Bosnia into ten semi-autonomous regions along ethnic lines.

Mr. Christopher said: "The main thing I would do would be to level the playing field. At the present time, the Bosnian Serbs have all the heavy weapons and Muslims have very few."

"Now, that's not an ideal solution because it would probably bring to an end the humanitarian efforts there. It would also probably escalate the fighting in ways that are most unattractive. On the other hand, it does seem unfair the way the embargo is operating at the present time," he said.

He said the United States welcomed the backing of Russia in ending the fighting in Bosnia because Russia had a special relationship with the Serbs.

Meanwhile, the U.N. said Monday it plans to evacuate thousands of refugees from the Serb-besieged Muslim town of Srebrenica, despite objections from Muslim leaders.

But United Nations officials rejected charges that bringing out the Muslims aided a Serb policy of "ethnic cleansing," forcibly creating ethnic enclaves in Bosnia's civil war.

Spokesman John McMillan for

the office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees said that from Tuesday the agency planned to send daily convoys into the town.

"Beginning tomorrow April 6 we are going to send in 20 trucks a day until we get the population down to a manageable level. Our ultimate goal is to bring out 10,000 people," he said.

"We're not cleansing the native Srebrenicans, we're taking out the refugees," he added.

Many of the estimated 40,000 people trapped in Srebrenica by besieging Serb forces have arrived there from other Muslim settlements in the region overrun by the Serb advance.

Local Muslim officials have been unwilling to allow a large-scale evacuation of Srebrenica, one of the last Muslim enclaves in eastern Bosnia.

On Sunday they prevented thousands of local people from boarding U.N. aid trucks which had brought in food.

Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic said Sunday he would allow the evacuation and would tell the local Bosnian army commander to let it continue.

The UNHCR said it was not sending in a convoy Monday because it wanted to be clear that Mr. Izetbegovic's orders would be carried out.

The 10,000 to be evacuated would be in addition to some 5,000 already taken out the northern Bosnian Muslim stronghold of Tuzla.

The Bosnian capital, Sarajevo, came under artillery and sniper attack Monday after intense fighting the previous day killed at least seven people and wounded 28.

Sarajevo Radio said fighting in violation of a ceasefire across the former Yugoslav Republic of Bosnia also continued around the eastern Muslim town of Gorazde which is blockaded by Serbs.

Residents said the shelling was sporadic in besieged Sarajevo Monday morning with sniper fire around the presidency building near the centre.

In a separate development, the Western European Union (WEU) defence agreed Monday to provide speedboats and armed police to enforce U.S. sanctions against Serbia along the Danube.

But Hungary, one of Serbia's neighbours, said it never asked for such aid and could not accept armed foreigners crossing its territory.

WEU Secretary-General Willem Van Eekelen told a news conference: "The only question that remains is to identify exactly where these men and these boats will go."

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